## LIFESTYLE COMMUNITIES

VS.

## CITY OF WORTHINGTON

Deposition of

**Matthew Greeson** 

October 06, 2023



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2	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO		
3	EASTERN DIVISION		
4	LIFESTYLE COMMUNITIES, )		
5	LTD., ET AL., )		
6	Plaintiffs, )		
7	vs. ) Case No. ) 2:22-cv-1775		
8	CITY OF WORTHINGTON, ) OHIO, )		
9	Defendant. )		
10			
11			
12	DEPOSITION		
13	of MATTHEW GREESON		
14			
15	Taken at Worthington City Hall 6550 North High Street		
16	Worthington, Ohio 43085		
17	on October 6, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.		
18			
19	Reported by: Rhonda Lawrence		
20			
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23			
24			

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1	APPEARANCES:	
2	Christopher L. Ingram	
3	VORYS SATER SEYMOUR AND PEASE LLP	
4	52 East Gay Street Columbus, Ohio 43215	
5	614.464.5480 clingram@vorys.com	
6	on behalf of the Plaintiffs.	
7		
8	Paul J. Schumacher DICKIE McCAMEY	
9	600 Superior Avenue East, Suite 2330 Cleveland, Ohio 44114	
	216.390.1795	
10	pschumacher@dmclaw.com	
11	and	
12	Richard J. Silk, Jr. DICKIE McCAMEY	
13	10 West Broad Street, Suite 1950 Columbus, Ohio 43215	
14	614.258.6000	
15	rsilk@dmclaw.com on behalf of the Defendant.	
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2	It is stipulated by and among counsel	
3	for the respective parties that the deposition	
4	of MATTHEW GREESON, the Witness herein, called	
5	by the Plaintiffs under the applicable Rules of	
6	Federal Civil Court Procedure, may be taken at	
7	this time by the stenographic court reporter and	
8	notary public pursuant to notice; that said	
9	deposition may be reduced to writing	
10	stenographically by the court reporter, whose	
11	notes thereafter may be transcribed outside the	
12	presence of the witness; and that the proof of	
13	the official character and qualification of the	
14	notary is waived.	
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- 1 MATTHEW GREESON
- 2 being first duly sworn, as hereinafter
- 3 certified, deposes and says as follows:
- 4 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 5 BY MR. INGRAM:
- 6 Q. Good morning. Please state your name
- 7 for the record.
- 8 A. My name is Matthew Henry Greeson.
- 9 Q. Good morning, Mr. Greeson. We just met.
- 10 As I mentioned, my name is Chris Ingram. I'm an
- 11 attorney for the plaintiffs in this case,
- 12 Lifestyle Communities. And so during the course
- of your deposition today, I'll refer to our
- 14 client as Lifestyle or LC, I think is what it's
- 15 often referred to in some of the documents that
- 16 have been produced. If I mention Lifestyle or
- 17 LC, you understand that that's who I'm referring
- 18 to?
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. Is that okay?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. Have you ever been deposed before,
- 23 Mr. Greeson?
- 24 A. No.

- 1 Q. So this is your first deposition?
- A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Well, let's walk through some ground
- 4 rules, then, for your deposition today. So
- 5 first, I just want you to make sure that if I
- 6 ask you a question and you don't understand or
- 7 are confused about any aspect of my question,
- 8 please stop me, let me know. Okay?
- 9 A. Sure.
- 10 Q. And if you don't ask me to repeat or
- 11 rephrase a question, we are all going to assume
- 12 that you understood my question. Fair?
- 13 A. That's fair.
- 14 Q. And it's important that -- we have a
- 15 court reporter here with us this morning that is
- 16 creating a transcript of your deposition, and so
- 17 it's important that we don't talk over one
- 18 another. And so if you would let me finish
- 19 asking my question before you begin your answer,
- 20 and I will likewise try to have you -- permit
- 21 you to finish your answer before I start my
- 22 question. Okay?
- A. I assume we'll both do our best.
- Q. Fair enough.

- 1 And with that written transcript, our
- 2 court reporter today cannot transcribe body
- 3 language or shaking of the head. So we'll need
- 4 you to provide verbal responses. So please do
- 5 answer my questions and refrain from uh-huhs or
- 6 huh-uhs as opposed to saying yes or no. Does
- 7 that make sense?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Excellent. And you're doing great so
- 10 far.
- If you need to take a break at any time,
- 12 just let me know, and we'll see what we can do
- 13 about when it's best to take a break, and I will
- 14 definitely need you to finish giving an answer
- 15 while there's any question pending.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: We're going to take a
- 17 break when we need to after questions are done.
- 18 Q. Do you understand, Mr. Greeson?
- 19 A. I understand him, and I'm -- I'll let
- 20 you know when I need a break.
- Q. Okay. Now, it's important that we get
- your full, complete and accurate answers today.
- 23 So I have to ask you, have you taken any
- 24 medication or drugs or anything that would make

- 1 it difficult for you to understand and answer my
- 2 questions today?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. So is there any reason at all why you
- 5 cannot give your full, complete and accurate
- 6 testimony today?
- 7 A. No, other than it's -- other than there
- 8 may be things I don't recall because I've been
- 9 away from Worthington for a while.
- 10 Q. Sure. But other than -- what I'm really
- 11 getting at is, is there anything affecting your
- 12 mental capacity --
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. -- or your ability to think clearly
- 15 today?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. Thank you.
- 18 Now, earlier you just swore an oath to
- 19 tell the truth in today's deposition. Do you
- 20 understand that's the same oath that you would
- 21 be asked when testifying in court in this
- 22 matter?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Now, I want to talk about,

- 1 Mr. Greeson -- you mentioned before we went on
- 2 the record that you had been here at the city
- 3 for 15 years and you were the city manager,
- 4 correct?
- 5 A. Yes, I was the city manager beginning in
- 6 December of 2007.
- 7 Q. Okay. And when did you leave the city?
- 8 A. December of 2022.
- 9 Q. Were you the city manager the entire
- 10 time from 2007 to 2022?
- 11 A. Yes. I was the city manager and
- 12 director of public safety. I think it's titled
- 13 director of safety.
- 14 O. Great.
- 15 And you're here with Mr. Schumacher and
- 16 Mr. Silk. Are they your attorneys today?
- 17 A. They're the City of Worthington's
- 18 attorneys.
- 19 Q. Are they your attorneys?
- 20 A. I believe that -- they're not my
- 21 personal attorneys, no.
- Q. Okay. And Mr. Greeson, what did you do
- 23 to prepare for your deposition today?
- 24 A. I read some documents and I met with the

- 1 City's attorneys.
- Q. Did you talk to anyone other than the
- 3 City's attorneys?
- 4 A. About the substance of the matter, no.
- 5 There are some people I made aware that I was
- 6 being deposed today.
- 7 Q. As far as preparing for today's
- 8 deposition?
- 9 A. No. The City's attorneys and I read a
- 10 number of documents.
- 11 Q. Okay. Do you recall about how many
- 12 documents you reviewed?
- 13 A. I don't remember the exact number, but I
- 14 can tell you what they were.
- 15 Q. Okay. What were they?
- 16 A. I read minutes from meetings. I read
- 17 the complaint again. And I read the staff
- 18 report for the meetings in question.
- 19 Q. Okay. Can you -- were there any other
- 20 documents that you reviewed?
- 21 A. Not that I recall.
- Q. And you reviewed meeting minutes plural.
- 23 Do you recall which meetings?
- 24 A. I read the minutes for the last MPC

- 1 meeting and the City Council meeting.
- Q. And which City Council meeting minutes
- 3 did you review?
- 4 A. The one in which the zoning case was
- 5 considered.
- 6 Q. So would that have been the December
- 7 2021 meeting?
- 8 A. I don't recall the specific date.
- 9 Q. All right. And you referenced the last
- 10 MPC meeting. Was that in connection with the
- 11 rezoning and the --
- 12 A. In which the denial recommendation was
- 13 proffered to the City Council.
- Q. Any other meeting minutes besides those?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. You said you read the complaint again.
- 17 Any other -- any other documents from this case,
- 18 to the extent you knew?
- 19 A. Not in the -- not recently. I had read
- 20 the last -- the Court's last decision when it
- 21 came out.
- Q. Okay. The order on reconsideration?
- 23 A. Uh-huh. Yes. But not recently.
- Q. Good catch.

- 1 What did you do, Mr. Greeson, before you
- 2 were the city manager of Worthington?
- 3 A. I held a variety of positions for the
- 4 County of Volusia in Florida.
- 5 Q. Any of those positions pertain to zoning
- 6 or land use in Volusia County?
- 7 A. I did not directly oversee the planning
- 8 department except for a short period of time
- 9 when I was the acting county manager; however, I
- 10 held a number of positions that interacted with
- 11 either the county's land or required a lot of
- 12 coordination and work with the growth and
- 13 resource management department of that county.
- Q. Okay. And my geography is off. Volusia
- 15 County, help orient me?
- 16 A. It's the Daytona Beach area.
- 17 Q. And so you're the acting county manager
- 18 in Volusia County?
- 19 A. I held five positions in about 12 years
- 20 from an entry-level position and then I left as
- 21 the deputy county manager, so there was a period
- 22 I was acting county manager.
- Q. And during those 12 years, those were
- 24 all public positions?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And what did you do before Volusia
- 3 County?
- 4 A. I worked for a small local government
- 5 consulting firm for a little over a year right
- 6 out of college.
- 7 Q. And what was the firm?
- 8 A. It was Arrington Florida Partnerships.
- 9 Q. And what did they do?
- 10 A. They did various management consulting
- 11 projects for cities and counties around Florida.
- 12 Q. What type of consulting projects?
- 13 A. Could include strategic planning, it
- 14 might include budget analysis, corporation
- 15 studies, you know, anything that -- board
- 16 retreats, helping to work on behalf of city
- 17 managers and city councils and county managers,
- 18 county commissions.
- 19 Q. So something like creating a
- 20 comprehensive plan for the city's future
- 21 development?
- 22 A. No, they did not -- that consulting firm
- 23 didn't work on planning and land use. If they
- 24 were involved in that, they would have involved

- 1 another consultant that had expertise on that.
- 2 It was more a general management consulting
- 3 firm.
- 4 Q. Mr. Greeson, did you -- what college
- 5 degrees have you obtained?
- 6 A. I have a bachelor's of arts with a major
- 7 in political science and a master's in public
- 8 administration.
- 9 Q. Any other graduate degrees?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. Do you have any professional
- 12 certifications?
- 13 A. Yes. I'm an International City County
- 14 Management Association credential manager.
- 15 Q. Okay. Any other certifications?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. So generally speaking, in your 15 years
- 18 as the city manager at Worthington, what were
- 19 your responsibilities as city manager?
- 20 A. I oversee the day-to-day operations of
- 21 the city.
- Q. Okay. Were you responsible to assist
- 23 City Council in leading and managing economic
- 24 development opportunities in the city?

- 1 A. Yes. In the sense that I oversaw the
- 2 staff, made budget recommendations and in some
- 3 cases policy recommendations related to those
- 4 matters.
- 5 Q. When you say oversaw the staff, what do
- 6 you mean by that?
- 7 A. All of the staff under the city charter
- 8 technically reports to the city manager or is
- 9 hired by and appointed by the city manager.
- 10 Q. And you indicated that you made policy
- 11 recommendations with respect to economic
- 12 development opportunities. What type of policy
- 13 recommendations were you responsible for making?
- 14 A. I think wide ranging, and so not in
- 15 every instance does the city manager make policy
- 16 recommendations, but one of the manager's key
- 17 responsibilities under the city charter is to
- 18 recommend the city budget, and one of the
- 19 council's key duties is to, you know, adopt the
- 20 budget. And so probably, first and foremost, it
- 21 was recommending how much money we might
- 22 allocate in the budget for anything that had to
- 23 do with economic development and what programs
- 24 the city might offer to advance the economic

- 1 vitality of the city, and that could range.
- 2 There's a wide range of those.
- 3 Q. And as city manager, what were your
- 4 responsibilities with respect to rezonings in
- 5 the city?
- 6 A. The planning and -- planning department
- 7 ultimately reported to me at different times.
- 8 They either reported to me or to Ms. Stewart,
- 9 the assistant city manager. And so in that way
- 10 I was somewhat responsible for overseeing their
- 11 work. Mr. Brown, who is the director of that
- 12 department, oversaw -- currently oversees and
- 13 oversaw, during a good part of my tenure, that
- 14 function, and then he reported to me for many
- 15 years, and then later reported to Ms. Stewart.
- 16 Q. Okay. So with respect to rezonings in
- 17 the city, was Mr. Brown -- Lee Brown primarily
- 18 responsible for overseeing rezonings?
- 19 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection to the term
- 20 rezonings.
- 21 A. Ultimately, it's the planning
- 22 commission's responsibility under the charter to
- 23 do that, so if you read the charter, the
- 24 planning commission authority is pretty

- 1 significant in that regard in terms of making
- 2 recommendations. And so I would describe the
- 3 role of the planning department as, you know,
- 4 accepting applications, coordinating review,
- 5 preparing the packets, interacting with
- 6 applicants and members of the public who may
- 7 have questions, and helping administer the code
- 8 and the process, preparing it ultimately for the
- 9 planning commission's recommendations to the
- 10 City Council, in the case of rezonings.
- 11 Q. Sure. And then you said planning
- 12 commission, I think you said has ultimate
- 13 responsibility or has primary responsibility? I
- 14 don't know. I want to make sure I understand
- 15 what you said. My real question is: Where does
- 16 City Council fall into that?
- 17 A. Well, they're the ultimate -- they make
- 18 the decision after having heard the planning
- 19 commission's recommendations, but the planning
- 20 commission plays a critical control, and they
- 21 have duties in the charter that are outlined
- 22 around, you know, long-range planning and those
- 23 responsibilities.
- Q. And so Mr. Brown, then, in the planning

- 1 department, is responsible for the process, I
- 2 think you said, and facilitating the planning
- 3 commission's and then ultimately City Council's
- 4 review; is that fair?
- 5 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection.
- 6 A. Could you repeat -- I'm sorry. Could
- 7 you repeat that again?
- 8 (Record read as requested.)
- 9 MR. SCHUMACHER: Do you understand the
- 10 question?
- 11 A. Yeah. I'm stuck on the word
- 12 facilitating. So let me just better describe
- 13 what they do. You know, they answer questions.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Are you talking about
- 15 the planning commission?
- 16 A. The staff. Staff's role. What's the
- 17 staff's role, in this case Mr. Brown and his
- 18 staff. And you're specifically talking about
- 19 rezonings, right?
- Q. Correct.
- 21 A. You're not -- because they oversee
- 22 building inspections and plan reviews and Ohio
- 23 Building Code administration, lots of other
- 24 things. The breadth of that department is more

- 1 than just rezonings. Ultimately, I think
- 2 they're responsible for taking in the
- 3 application, administering whatever applies, the
- 4 code, you know, the fee, administering what the
- 5 code calls for, asking for the materials that
- 6 are required by the code, reviewing that and
- 7 providing information to the planning commission
- 8 about the application, and helping assist the
- 9 planning commission and ultimately the City
- 10 Council in their review of it.
- 11 And I think, if you look at the
- 12 memorandum that Mr. Brown did for the case
- involved here, he was fulfilling his obligation
- 14 by providing information that was necessary for
- 15 them to make an informed decision. But I want
- 16 to be clear, facilitating doesn't always mean --
- 17 it doesn't mean deciding.
- 18 Q. Gotcha. That makes sense. Thank you.
- 19 And so I take it, then, that Mr. Brown
- 20 and the planning department, they're meeting
- 21 with applicants and talking about rezoning
- 22 applications and the materials during the course
- 23 of preparing everything for both planning
- commission and council's review; is that how it

- 1 works?
- 2 MR. SCHUMACHER: Are we back to talking
- 3 generally now, or this specific case?
- 4 Q. Do you understand my question,
- 5 Mr. Greeson?
- 6 A. I do.
- 7 Q. You may answer.
- 8 A. I think it depends. Certainly, the
- 9 staff is always -- let me be clear. Yes, we
- 10 make the staff available to answer questions
- 11 to -- whether that be the public, certainly
- 12 provide the technical information that often the
- 13 city holds or sometimes the city holds. I think
- 14 we meet with applicants, meet with residents
- 15 that might be concerned about the process and we
- 16 explain how the process might work. And
- 17 generally outline the process. Those take
- 18 different forms in different cases, I think.
- 19 Q. And as far as the overall --
- A. Generally, yes.
- Q. Sure. And with respect to the overall
- 22 process, were there any written policies or
- 23 procedures that staff is abiding by or that
- 24 guide staff's actions with respect to rezonings?

- 1 A. The codified ordinances are the law
- 2 related to it, and so that's -- the charter and
- 3 the codified ordinances are, you know, one and
- 4 two. There are other guiding documents that
- 5 inform the dialogue, but aren't necessarily
- 6 codified law. So that would include the comp
- 7 plan, which is the subject of this discussion,
- 8 that would include the bike/ped plan, bike and
- 9 pedestrian plan. That would include other
- 10 documents, other plans that the city might have
- 11 in place.
- 12 Q. Okay. And thank you. My question is a
- 13 little bit different. So let's just
- 14 hypothetically assume I'm a new employee in
- 15 Mr. Brown's department and I come to either
- 16 Mr. Brown or to the city manager and I ask,
- 17 okay, hey, I got this rezoning application, what
- 18 is my role as a staff member of the planning
- 19 department? Do I need to meet with these
- 20 people? What do I need to get from there? Is
- 21 there some, you know, guiding document beyond
- the legal documents that you referenced?
- 23 A. I don't recall that there is. I'm not
- 24 aware of one.

- 1 Q. No policy or written procedure? That's
- 2 really what I'm asking.
- 3 A. I don't think there is a written
- 4 procedure that says for every single zoning
- 5 application this is exactly how you treat it,
- 6 nor do I think there's an obligation legally or
- 7 by policy that we do all these things. I think
- 8 our obligation is to support the planning
- 9 commission and the council's decision-making
- 10 process and give them the information that they
- 11 need. But there's nothing that says we have to
- 12 meet with an applicant or we have to answer a
- 13 citizen's phone call about the process.
- 14 Q. And I was only asking you whether it
- 15 existed, not whether it was right or wrong.
- 16 A. Sure.
- 17 MR. SCHUMACHER: So are you going to
- 18 hire him, or not?
- 19 THE WITNESS: As a planner? We'll see
- 20 by the end of the day.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay.
- 22 BY MR. INGRAM:
- Q. My prior line of questioning pertains
- 24 generally to rezonings. How about for

- 1 development plan applications? And really, I'm
- 2 asking about development plans for, you know,
- 3 large mixed-use developments, such as the one
- 4 across the street from where we are today.
- 5 A. I think, under Worthington's code,
- 6 there's development plans and then there's PUDs.
- 7 Are you asking about planned unit developments?
- 8 O. Correct. PUDs.
- 9 A. Okay. Which is a rezoning. So I'm not
- 10 sure I have a different answer.
- 11 Q. Perfect. So same answers. Got it.
- 12 MR. SCHUMACHER: Obviously, we're
- 13 referring to this property? It just seems that
- 14 the guestion and answer assumed something that
- 15 you didn't ask about, but it's your deposition.
- 16 A. I'm not -- what's your question?
- 17 Q. I actually didn't have a question.
- 18 MR. SCHUMACHER: I don't think there is
- 19 a question anymore.
- 20 MR. INGRAM: Mr. Schumacher was
- 21 intervening. We'll move on.
- 22 A. Yeah, I'm not --
- MR. SCHUMACHER: He calls it soliloquy.
- 24 MR. SILK: Soliloguy.

- 1 MR. SCHUMACHER: Soliloquy. Thank you.
- 2 BY MR. INGRAM:
- 3 Q. Now, while you were the city manager
- 4 here in Worthington, Mr. Greeson, who did you
- 5 answer to?
- 6 A. The City Council, the seven-member City
- 7 Council.
- 8 Q. Why did you leave the City of
- 9 Worthington city manager position to accept the
- 10 same role at the City of Kettering?
- 11 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection. Relevance.
- 12 You can answer.
- 13 A. It was a career opportunity for me to
- 14 move to a very reputable, larger community in
- 15 Ohio, and one that I held in high regard, and
- 16 its city manager was retiring after a long
- 17 period of time. I held him in high regard. I
- 18 held that city in high regard. And it posed
- 19 some new challenges for me as well as an
- 20 opportunity to kind of run a bigger city, bigger
- 21 budget, different challenges.
- Q. The City of Kettering is enjoying
- 23 economic growth and development right now; isn't
- 24 that right?

- 1 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection. Relevance.
- 2 A. It's got both economic opportunity and
- 3 also has some challenges.
- 4 Q. My grandmother was a kindergartener
- 5 teacher for like four decades in Kettering.
- 6 A. That's great. It's a wonderful
- 7 community. I'm proud to be there.
- 8 Q. All right. For purposes of our
- 9 discussion today, Mr. Greeson, when I refer to
- 10 the UMCH property, or Lifestyle's property, or
- 11 frankly, the property, I'm going to be talking
- 12 about the property across the street that we're
- 13 pointing to, 1033 High Street, which is the
- 14 approximately 37.6 acres that are the center of
- 15 this dispute. Do you understand what I'm
- 16 referring to?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And if you say the UMCH property or LC's
- 19 property, we're both going to assume that we're
- 20 talking about the property that we're looking at
- 21 right now, fair?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. When did the UMCH property come
- 24 onto the City's radar as a potential opportunity

- for development?
- 2 A. I think discussions about the future of
- 3 UMCH had been going on for, you know, quite some
- 4 time in the community, and I can't offer a
- 5 specific date, because I don't recall one. But
- 6 I do know that the -- that potential development
- 7 predates my -- discussions predate my tenure
- 8 with the city. Particularly, you know, there
- 9 was a lot of discussion with the rezoning with
- 10 the front acreage to what it is today and the
- 11 development of the -- whatever it's called, the
- 12 Bickford assisted living facility. And so at
- 13 points in time, as UMCH sought to either lease
- 14 or sell or develop pieces of their land, it was
- 15 front of mind for the community, and it was a
- 16 subject of discussion, and I'm aware of that,
- 17 but I wasn't here for it.
- 18 Q. Okay. So when you first came to be
- 19 the -- did you move from the Daytona Beach area
- 20 to Worthington?
- 21 A. I moved from DeLand, Florida to
- 22 Worthington, yes.
- 23 Q. In 2007?
- 24 A. In December of 2007.

- 1 O. Very stark memory. Was it cold?
- 2 A. It was snowing.
- 3 Q. Welcome.
- 4 So when you moved to Worthington in
- 5 December of 2007 and became the city manager,
- 6 when did you first take notice of or learn about
- 7 the development opportunities of the UMCH
- 8 property?
- 9 A. I'm not sure the exact date or time or
- 10 month, but I had read the 2005 comprehensive
- 11 plan which outlined the UMCH property as a focus
- 12 area, and became more -- became aware of UMCH
- and their operations in December of 2007 because
- 14 I believe I attended a holiday event for the
- 15 UMCH staff.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. So I'm not -- we weren't talking about
- 18 development. I was learning about the
- 19 operations of the facility from the director who
- 20 had invited me to that event, but I had read the
- 21 comprehensive plan.
- Q. Did you read the -- I guess, why did you
- 23 start with or read the 2005 comprehensive plan?
- A. I believe I read it as an applicant to

- 1 familiarize myself with the community when I was
- 2 seeking the city manager position, and then, you
- 3 know, at some point read it again as a new city
- 4 manager. I did the same as I moved to
- 5 Kettering.
- 6 Q. And why were you reviewing -- both in
- 7 the Worthington example and in the City of
- 8 Kettering example, why did you decide to select
- 9 the comprehensive plan as something to review?
- 10 A. I don't think I singled it out. I read
- 11 every -- if you knew me better, you would know I
- 12 read every planning document, the budget that
- 13 was available to me online or, you know, readily
- 14 available otherwise. And because it's an
- 15 important policy document in the life of the
- 16 city.
- 17 Q. What you just referred to, you're
- 18 referring to the comprehensive plans?
- 19 A. Yes, and the budget and the bike/ped
- 20 plan and the -- you know, anything that
- 21 council's adopted to help, you know, guide
- 22 decision-making.
- Q. Mr. Greeson, how long has the UMCH
- 24 property sat vacant as green space, from your

- 1 recollection?
- 2 A. I don't have a specific recollection of
- 3 that. I can't cite the month or year at this
- 4 point. And it depends on what you believe is
- 5 green space. There is a time period in which
- 6 they ceased operations, and then there was a
- 7 time in which -- where they demolished the
- 8 vacant buildings that formerly housed the social
- 9 service mission. And so you define green space,
- 10 and there's a permit for the demolition that
- 11 could probably mark the date, and there's a time
- 12 in which they announced the ending of
- 13 operations. Those might inform your question.
- 14 Q. Do you know which years UMCH ceased
- 15 operations on that site?
- 16 A. To tell you the truth, I can't remember
- 17 the specific year at this point.
- 18 Q. Was it before you moved to Worthington?
- 19 A. They ceased operations after I -- while
- 20 I was city manager.
- Q. Okay. Fair enough.
- -=0=-
- 23 (Deposition Exhibit 14 marked.)
- -=0=-

- 1 MR. SCHUMACHER: Are we at 14?
- 2 MR. INGRAM: 14.
- 3 BY MR. INGRAM:
- 4 Q. Mr. Greeson, I've handed you what we've
- 5 marked as Exhibit 14.
- 6 A. Okay.
- 7 Q. And for the record, Exhibit 14 is a
- 8 memorandum Bates numbered Worthington 36387.
- 9 Mr. Greeson, Exhibit 14 is a memorandum
- 10 to you from Lynda Bitar, B-I-T-A-R, dated
- 11 January 11, 2012. Do you see that?
- 12 A. I do.
- Q. Earlier you said you're very meticulous
- 14 about reading everything. I take it you would
- 15 have reviewed and were familiar with this
- 16 memorandum?
- 17 MR. SCHUMACHER: Can you give him a
- 18 chance to read it?
- 19 A. Yeah, I don't specifically recall this,
- 20 given it was 2012 and it's currently 2023. But
- 21 I'll be glad to read it --
- 22 Q. Sure.
- 23 A. -- if you give me the time.
- Q. of course.

- 1 A. Okay. I've completed my reading of it.
- 2 What's your question?
- Q. Okay. First of all, who is Ms. Bitar?
- 4 A. It's Bitar. She is -- her title may
- 5 have changed, but development coordinator in the
- 6 planning and building department. I can't
- 7 remember in 2012 whether she was housed in City
- 8 Hall under the city manager's office, but there
- 9 was a point in time in which that was the case.
- 10 Q. Would she have reported to you at this
- 11 time?
- 12 A. She may have, or to the assistant city
- 13 manager, later, and currently, she reports to
- 14 Mr. Brown.
- 15 Q. So she starts her memorandum to you
- 16 with, as you know. Do you see that?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And she talks about the UMCH property
- 19 being currently for sale. Do you recall -- does
- 20 this refresh your recollection about the time of
- 21 when the UMCH property was vacant and they were
- 22 trying to sell the property?
- 23 A. Yeah. They ceased operations or they
- 24 announced they were going to cease operations,

- 1 and I don't remember whether they, you know,
- 2 articulated a desire to sell it before they
- 3 ceased operations or how that worked. My memory
- 4 doesn't -- I don't retain -- didn't retain that.
- 5 But yes, we became aware that they were ceasing
- 6 operations and that they anticipated, over some
- 7 period of time, to no longer use it for UMCH's
- 8 social service mission and do some kind of
- 9 transaction, potentially a sale, that would lead
- 10 to development.
- 11 Q. Ms. Bitar wrote to you here at the end
- 12 of the first paragraph, she says that, because
- 13 Worthington is a fully developed community with
- 14 few opportunities for redevelopment which will
- 15 increase the tax base, it is critical that
- 16 redevelopment of the site is guided to benefit
- 17 the community in the future.
- 18 This last bit here, that sentence, it is
- 19 critical that redevelopment of the site is
- 20 guided to benefit the community in the future,
- 21 what did you understand that to mean?
- 22 A. I don't recall the memo personally, so I
- 23 would only be subjectively answering the
- 24 question now. But I think she outlines that

- 1 there's a balance of -- that could mean
- 2 economic, that could mean, you know,
- 3 opportunities for green space, and that could
- 4 mean opportunities for living. Some balanced
- 5 combination of all of those potentially, as well
- 6 as development that supported the city's budget
- 7 and didn't zap its ability to continue to
- 8 provide high-quality services.
- 9 Q. Okay. She goes on to say in the next
- 10 sentence, in order to evaluate current market
- 11 reality and long-term viability for
- 12 redevelopment of the site, contracting with a
- 13 consultant is recommended.
- 14 What type of consultant would be
- 15 utilized to guide this redevelopment?
- 16 A. Well, since we at that time had one
- 17 planner on staff, and now only have, I believe,
- 18 two -- "we" being the City of Worthington, which
- 19 I'm no longer a part of -- I believe she meant a
- 20 planning consultant that assisted in the wide
- 21 range of skill set to help do the things she's
- 22 outlined in the memo.
- Q. Okay. And certainly, you can recall
- 24 MKSK being retained to update the city's 2005

- 1 comprehensive plan. I believe their work
- 2 started a year after this.
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 O. Is this recommendation -- was this kind
- 5 of the genesis of that effort with MKSK?
- 6 MR. SCHUMACHER: You mean this memo?
- 7 MR. INGRAM: Correct.
- 8 A. I don't think the sole memo was the
- 9 genesis of it. The genesis of it was a very
- 10 important context sensitive piece of property in
- 11 our community that had been the source of a lot
- 12 of dialogue about its future in the 2005
- comprehensive plan, if the -- you know, where
- 14 they were looking at if UMCH never ceased to
- 15 exist as a social service purpose on that
- 16 property and changed their mission, what might
- 17 it become. Even prior to that, their discussion
- 18 about, you know, as they sold off pieces of the
- 19 property or contemplated pieces of the property,
- 20 it was important. The operations had been
- 21 controversial, and periodically throughout
- 22 UMCH's operational history they had had conflict
- 23 with the community, and being a built-out
- community, this property, whatever you want to

- 1 call it, UMCH, Lifestyle, LC, the property, 1033
- 2 High Street, was viewed, probably still is
- 3 viewed, as one of the most sensitive sites in
- 4 the community, high profile, a lot of community
- 5 concern about its future, posed an opportunity
- 6 for Worthington. I think she in this memo is
- 7 stating the obvious that we needed to do some
- 8 planning, given the fact that it's an important
- 9 property in the community and it appeared to be
- 10 in transition.
- 11 Q. Did you ask her to prepare this
- 12 memorandum, or is this something she did on her
- 13 own?
- 14 A. I don't remember.
- 15 Q. You mentioned there were -- the UMCH's
- 16 prior use was controversial or there was some
- 17 issue with it. Can you elaborate on what you're
- 18 referring to?
- 19 A. Yeah, I don't think -- well, not
- 20 extensively at this point, because the details
- 21 of it have faded. But over the course of time
- 22 at different intervals in the life of UMCH's
- operation of a children's home on its property,
- 24 you know, there had been operational issues that

- 1 led the community to have various levels of
- 2 outcry. And so prior to their decision to cease
- 3 to operate, there had been a period of time in
- 4 which they had management challenges. I think
- 5 they had, you know, a number of different
- 6 directors and turnover in the director's roles.
- 7 But that really wasn't the community issue.
- 8 The community's issue was that they had
- 9 had some kids that left the campus and committed
- 10 some crimes. There was a higher volume of
- 11 police interaction or calls to the site to
- 12 respond to issues that, you know, were arising.
- 13 And the neighborhood and the community got
- 14 frustrated with that and voiced their opinion in
- 15 various ways.
- 16 You know, I recall at some point one of
- 17 the county social service agencies pulled
- 18 funding from them, and so all of those things
- 19 were, I think, contributing factors to their
- 20 decision to not get out of the social service
- 21 business, because they're certainly a viable,
- valuable continuing entity in the Columbus
- 23 region, but to no longer be in the housing
- 24 business and use this site to house children.

- 1 O. Okay. And with respect to those issues
- 2 you just referred to and the public outcry, do
- 3 you know about what year range period you're
- 4 referring to?
- 5 A. Well, it predates this memo, so I would
- 6 have to go back in time and --
- 7 Q. Were you the city manager then?
- 8 A. I was the city manager during the period
- 9 in which there was outcry prior to this memo
- 10 being written in 2012 and their decision to
- 11 start marketing the property. However, I think,
- 12 if you read newspaper articles or researched
- 13 city files, you might find that that happened
- 14 episodically, you know, that there were a number
- 15 of times over history where issues on the
- 16 property became a concern to the community, and
- 17 there was some similar level of outcry. And so
- 18 it wasn't the only time over history; it was
- 19 just one of the times.
- 20 Q. Okay.
- 21 A. From my understanding.
- Q. In Exhibit 14, Ms. Bitar makes reference
- 23 to the Community Improvement Corporation. Do
- 24 you see that? It's in the second paragraph.

- 1 A. Yes.
- Q. And she raises the Community Improvement
- 3 Corporation, or the CIC, along with the planning
- 4 commission and the City Council. What would the
- 5 CIC's role be with respect to guiding the future
- 6 development of the property?
- 7 A. I'm not sure in this instance. Well,
- 8 I'm not sure in 2012 what she was contemplating,
- 9 other than that we would have, you know, engaged
- 10 those members in the process so that their, you
- 11 know, involvement with the city was honored and
- 12 that we listened to them about their thoughts,
- 13 but they didn't have an active role in -- they
- don't have an active role in comp planning by
- 15 law. That's the planning commission's role.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. I just don't specifically remember why
- 18 Ms. Bitar would have included that.
- -=0=-
- 20 (Deposition Exhibit 15 marked.)
- -=0=-
- 22 BY MR. INGRAM:
- Q. Mr. Greeson, I've handed you what's been
- 24 marked as Exhibit 15, which is Bates numbered

- 1 Worthington 28381 through 28382. And Exhibit 15
- 2 is a memorandum from you to the Worthington City
- 3 Council, dated February 21st, 2012; is that
- 4 correct?
- 5 A. Looks like this is a draft memorandum.
- 6 It's not on letterhead, nor is -- there are some
- 7 missing blanks, and I would not have sent this
- 8 in that form to City Council. So this appears
- 9 to me to be a draft.
- 10 Q. Okay. Fair enough. So draft memorandum
- 11 that you were -- you had prepared?
- 12 A. Looks like it.
- 13 Do you want me to read it?
- 14 Q. If you want to review it, go ahead.
- 15 A. I would like to.
- 16 Q. Have you had an opportunity to review
- 17 the full exhibit?
- 18 A. I have.
- 19 Q. Okay. In the background in this draft
- 20 memorandum it says, as you know, I was
- 21 approached by Continental. Do you see that?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. And is that Mr. Frank Kass?
- 24 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Were you approached by Mr. Kass?
- 2 A. Yes. It actually jogs my memory as
- 3 being one of the other things that contributed
- 4 to, you know, probably the need to do the
- 5 comprehensive plan update that was adopted --
- 6 whenever we readopted it, 2014.
- 7 Q. Okay. And Mr. Kass approached you
- 8 because Continental was seeking to construct a
- 9 Giant Eagle grocery store with other retail and
- 10 gas -- a gas station on the UMCH property,
- 11 correct?
- 12 A. Yes. I think that's outlined.
- 13 Q. And --
- 14 A. Although he never -- nobody ever made
- 15 formal application to that effect, so it was
- 16 conceptual.
- 17 Q. You anticipated my next question. So no
- 18 formal application had been filed as of February
- 19 2012, but it looks like, based on your writing
- 20 here, that city officials met to discuss this
- 21 concept proposed by Continental --
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection.
- 23 Q. -- is that fair?
- 24 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection. Compound

- 1 question. Which question do you want him to
- 2 answer?
- 3 Q. Do you understand my question?
- 4 MR. SCHUMACHER: Do you want to have her
- 5 read it back?
- 6 THE WITNESS: Yeah, I would benefit from
- 7 having it read back at this point. Both of you
- 8 were talking.
- 9 MR. INGRAM: Counsel, if you could
- 10 refrain from talking over me, I'd appreciate it.
- 11 MR. SCHUMACHER: I'm sorry. I wanted to
- 12 make my objection because the question was
- 13 clearly compound.
- 14 MR. INGRAM: You can do so after I
- 15 finish asking my question.
- 16 MR. SCHUMACHER: But I need to do that
- 17 before he answers, because if he answers a
- 18 compound question, a yes or no could be to
- 19 either of those questions, and my job is to make
- 20 sure the record's clear. And I will continue to
- 21 do that. But I will try not to speak over you.
- 22 And I'll ask you to wait until the
- 23 question is completed before you answer.
- 24 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

- 1 MR. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.
- 2 (Record read as requested.)
- 3 MR. SCHUMACHER: Same objection.
- 4 A. I believe this -- what looks like a
- 5 draft memo is accurate in that we met with --
- 6 yes, we met with representatives of Continental
- 7 in the times outlined.
- 8 BY MR. INGRAM:
- 9 Q. Okay. And based on those meetings, it
- 10 says that the proposal, particularly the large
- 11 format retail use, was inconsistent with the
- 12 2005 comprehensive plan update. Do you see
- 13 that?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And did not garner support from the city
- 16 officials, correct?
- 17 A. I don't recall the specific discussions
- 18 of the group, but no, it did not garner my
- 19 support. And I believe what's written here is
- 20 accurate.
- Q. And why didn't you support it?
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection. Relevance.
- 23 A. I don't think -- for a variety of
- 24 reasons. It did not reflect the -- what we

- 1 thought the community wanted and needed. It
- 2 certainly didn't meet the objectives of the
- 3 comprehensive plan. It was wholly inconsistent
- 4 with that. But it also didn't address many of
- 5 the things we knew that the community thought
- 6 was important: More office use, which is, you
- 7 know, 75 percent of the city's budget. Well, I
- 8 don't know the current budget. But over 70
- 9 percent of the budget is derived from income
- 10 taxes. And so jobs and workers and income tax
- 11 revenue is critically important. You know, park
- 12 space preservation, good architecture, all those
- 13 things are critical. Defining characteristics
- 14 of Worthington.
- 15 You know, Worthington, you know, has
- 16 really worked hard to make itself a distinctive
- 17 community through good planning and good
- 18 stewardship and decision-making about
- 19 development over time and a lot of community
- 20 engagement around that. And I think the type of
- 21 development proposal they were offering
- 22 didn't -- wasn't in keeping with that, a large
- 23 format retail use. And it wasn't in keeping
- 24 with probably any site in Worthington. If you

- 1 look at the comprehensive plan, you know, large
- 2 format retail was something that, you know, we
- 3 weren't -- we weren't aiming for strategically.
- 4 And then it didn't strike the right
- 5 balance of -- of uses and approaches across the
- 6 property. Probably would have demanded more
- 7 services than revenue it created. All of those
- 8 would have been reasons that I would have
- 9 contemplated.
- 10 Q. Okay. You referenced architectural
- 11 elements and other matters that contribute to a
- 12 distinctly Worthington, is the phrase you used,
- 13 development. And so my question to you is what
- documents or what policies would one go to to
- 15 understand how they could design something that
- 16 is distinctly Worthington?
- 17 A. Ultimately, I think the comp plan and
- 18 the architectural review guidelines -- I didn't
- 19 say distinctively Worthington. I said
- 20 distinctive; meaning, high quality, compatible
- 21 with and -- and I think that's a little
- 22 different. But this is part of the
- 23 architectural review district, and it's also,
- 24 you know, again, reflecting that it's a context

- 1 sensitive site. It's embedded in a -- partially
- 2 embedded in a neighborhood, surrounded on
- 3 multiple sides by homes. It's across from the
- 4 City Hall, you know, which the city has worked
- 5 to make sure has character. It doesn't look
- 6 like a strip mall over here. It was designed to
- 7 look like the original Ohio Statehouse, so its
- 8 historic character was important.
- 9 And for all of those reasons, that site
- 10 is so sensitive and important, and you can --
- 11 you can imagine that a large format grocery
- 12 retail center is hard to make look and feel with
- 13 a large field of parking to fit into the context
- 14 sensitive setting that it's in.
- Q. And I'm sorry if I misheard you, by the
- 16 way.
- 17 A. Yeah.
- 18 Q. Thank you for pointing that out.
- 19 I thought I heard you mention or refer
- 20 to two documents in response to my question,
- 21 which was the comprehensive plan, and you said
- 22 the architectural --
- 23 A. Review guidelines, which come later in
- 24 the process.

- 1 Q. Sure. And any other policies or
- 2 documents?
- 3 A. I don't recall at this time what adopted
- 4 plans we had. We later had a bike/ped plan and
- 5 some other documents that would have been
- 6 important. It would have been the codified
- 7 ordinances, the comprehensive plan at that time,
- 8 and the architectural review guidelines.
- 9 Q. Okay.
- 10 A. I also don't recall whether I sent this.
- 11 Not that it matters.
- 12 Q. Do you recall the circumstances of why
- 13 you would have prepared it?
- 14 A. Yeah. Well, I think they're outlined in
- 15 the memo. Whether I sent it or whether I used
- 16 it just to organize my own thinking, I don't
- 17 remember.
- 18 Q. You do conclude here we may need both
- 19 specialty planners and attorneys to assist us on
- 20 this matter as it moves forward.
- 21 Do you recall that?
- A. I see that I wrote that. I wrote this,
- 23 it appears, after Ms. Bitar wrote her
- 24 memorandum, and so, obviously, we were thinking

- 1 about hiring planners to help assist with
- 2 updating the comprehensive plan. It was
- 3 probably a good idea, but I don't remember the
- 4 specific details of writing -- I don't remember
- 5 writing this memo, is what I'm saying.
- 6 Q. Okay. That's fair.
- 7 -=0=-
- 8 (Deposition Exhibit 16 marked.)
- 9 -=0=-
- 10 BY MR. INGRAM:
- 11 Q. I'm going to hand you what's been marked
- 12 as Exhibit 16. For purposes of the record,
- 13 Exhibit 16 is an engagement of special counsel,
- 14 Bates numbered Worthington 317901. Do you see
- 15 that, Mr. Greeson?
- 16 A. I do.
- 17 Q. Do you recall this document?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. I'm going to let you review it.
- 20 A. Uh-huh.
- 21 Q. In the second paragraph --
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Have you had a chance
- 23 to review it?
- THE WITNESS: Not yet.

- 1 MR. INGRAM: I thought I heard you say
- 2 uh-huh.
- 3 MR. SCHUMACHER: I am the guardian of
- 4 the record.
- 5 A. Okay. I've read it.
- 6 BY MR. INGRAM:
- 7 Q. I just have a couple questions. Really,
- 8 drawing your attention to the third paragraph,
- 9 it says, the UMCH site was only recently vacated
- 10 as a place to care for troubled children.
- 11 Because that is so, it is the right time to
- 12 consider rezoning.
- 13 It goes on to say that the city had some
- 14 preliminary contact with a prospective developer
- of the UMCH site who wants to develop a big box
- 16 for Giant Eagle. Do you see that?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Did the city ultimately retain a special
- 19 counsel in connection for the rezoning --
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 O. -- of the UMCH site?
- 22 A. Yes. This is helpful in -- oh, sorry.
- Q. Go ahead.
- A. Did you finish your question?

- 1 Q. Yes, I did.
- 2 A. Okay. Yes, and this is helpful in
- 3 jogging my memory. While we did not obtain
- 4 special counsel solely related to UMCH, although
- 5 UMCH obviously was and is one of the most -- I
- 6 don't want to use the term context sensitive,
- 7 because I don't necessarily have better words,
- 8 but a very important site in the life of this
- 9 community, probably only second to the Village
- 10 Green, but established by the founders in 1803.
- 11 But I think we believed that not only because of
- 12 the possibility of, you know, a mix of use of
- 13 development at UMCH, but that we had other
- 14 areas, some of these are mentioned, but they're
- 15 not -- they're not -- it doesn't document them
- 16 all.
- 17 The Wilson Bridge Road corridor, which
- 18 we were also doing specialized planning around.
- 19 I think we started that process earlier than
- 20 this one. The mall site, now called The Shops
- 21 at Worthington Place or High North. And we
- 22 thought there was some deficiencies in the
- 23 zoning code.
- I believe we ultimately hired Katherine

- 1 Cunningham to assist our council in
- 2 understanding improvements to our code, and they
- 3 adopted a change in the code to allow for
- 4 planned unit developments, which our code, which
- 5 was largely written in the very beginning of --
- 6 well, it was largely written in the early
- 7 '70s -- didn't accommodate.
- 8 O. Was the creation of the PUD and the -- I
- 9 guess the output from Ms. Cunningham's work --
- 10 did that occur before the 2014 comprehensive
- 11 plan update?
- 12 A. I don't specifically recall, but I
- 13 believe so.
- -=0=-
- 15 (Deposition Exhibit 17 marked.)
- 16 -=0=-
- 17 BY MR. INGRAM:
- 18 Q. Mr. Greeson, you've been handed what's
- 19 been marked as Exhibit 17. And for purposes of
- 20 the record, Exhibit 17 is a letter from MKSK to
- 21 you, dated June 12, 2013, Bates numbered
- 22 Worthington 62382 through 62392. Do you see
- 23 that, Mr. Greeson?
- 24 A. Yes.

- 1 O. Mr. Greeson, if you could turn to page 8
- 2 of 8 of the letter. Is that your signature
- 3 there on the authorization line?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Is this an engagement letter where the
- 6 city retained MKSK?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Directing your attention to page 7, the
- 9 prior page, under compensation. This engagement
- 10 letter covered \$41,460 for MKSK's services. Do
- 11 you see that?
- 12 A. Yes.
- Q. Did the city pay any additional sums to
- 14 MKSK in connection with the 2014 comprehensive
- 15 plan update?
- 16 A. I don't remember.
- 17 I will comment I wish planning services
- 18 were \$41,000 nowadays.
- 19 MR. SCHUMACHER: I think it's time for
- 20 that morning break.
- MR. INGRAM: We have been going about an
- 22 hour, Mr. Greeson. Do you want to take a break?
- 23 THE WITNESS: Yeah. I drank a lot of
- 24 coffee.

- 1 (Recess.)
- 2 BY MR. INGRAM:
- Q. Prior to our break, Mr. Greeson, we were
- 4 reviewing Exhibit 17, the engagement letter from
- 5 MKSK to you. Do you recall that?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. I was looking at the attachment to the
- 8 engagement letter, and there's terms and
- 9 conditions and proposal, and it's a little hard
- 10 to read, so I have a magnifying glass here,
- 11 should you need it. But it appears that your
- 12 initials are near where there are terms that
- 13 were crossed out?
- 14 A. What page are you on?
- 15 Q. Starting at page 62390, if you're
- 16 looking in the lower right-hand corner, so 90.
- 17 If you turn the page to 91, my question is
- 18 simply are those your initials?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. So you reviewed, I take it, this
- 21 engagement letter and had the opportunity to
- 22 comment or strike anything that you disagreed
- 23 with; is that fair?
- 24 A. I don't remember. I may have signed off

- 1 on what the law director recommended as
- 2 provisions for striking. Not having -- I
- 3 haven't read all of the strike-throughs, but
- 4 obviously, I authorized them.
- 5 Q. Sure. And my question was simply, I
- 6 guess, you, or perhaps the city, had the
- 7 opportunity to review and revise or strike
- 8 anything that it disagreed with in this
- 9 engagement letter; is that fair?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And so either you or someone from the
- 12 city would have reviewed this engagement letter
- 13 before you signed it?
- 14 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection. Relevance.
- 15 A. Yes. The degree to which we -- the
- 16 degree to which we actually reviewed it and my
- 17 personal review of it I don't recall.
- 18 -=0=-
- 19 (Deposition Exhibit 18 marked.)
- -=0=-
- 21 BY MR. INGRAM:
- Q. You've been handed, Mr. Greeson, what I
- 23 have been marked as Exhibit 18, which is the
- 24 City of Worthington launching visioning UMCH

- 1 process press release, Bates numbered
- 2 Worthington 62713. Do you see that?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. And with respect to your position as
- 5 city manager, would you have reviewed this press
- 6 release before it was issued by Ms. Brown?
- 7 A. Maybe, but I don't specifically remember
- 8 reviewing it.
- 9 Q. Okay.
- 10 A. I may have, I may not have.
- 11 Q. So you didn't always?
- 12 A. I didn't always. She's very capable.
- 13 Q. This release was issued September 4,
- 14 2013, and it obviously references MKSK and
- 15 MKSK's work for the comprehensive plan update.
- 16 Do you recall why this press release was issued?
- 17 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection. Relevance.
- 18 A. I don't recall. I imagine we were just
- 19 informing the public because it was important
- 20 property in our community.
- Q. Okay. Thank you.
- -=0=-
- 23 (Deposition Exhibit 19 marked.)
- -=0=-

- 1 BY MR. INGRAM:
- Q. Mr. Greeson, you've been handed what's
- 3 been marked as Exhibit 19, which is a memorandum
- 4 to you from Mr. Brown, dated September 27, 2013,
- 5 Bates numbered Worthington 28538 through 28539.
- 6 Do you see that?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. I want to direct your attention to the
- 9 second page.
- 10 A. Let me read the document, if I may.
- 11 Q. Sure.
- Mr. Greeson, as I indicated earlier, I
- 13 want to direct your attention to page 2 under
- 14 process. There's a reference to WARD, W-A-R-D,
- 15 in all caps. Who is WARD?
- 16 A. It's a group of citizens. WARD is an
- 17 acronym for Worthington Alliance for Responsible
- 18 Development. And they formed sometime during
- 19 this process, initially out of interest and
- 20 concern about how the UMCH property might
- 21 develop.
- Q. Okay. And were there any city officials
- 23 or anyone from the city part of this WARD
- 24 organization?

- 1 A. I interacted a lot -- quite a bit with a
- 2 WARD planning committee, and they're -- to my
- 3 recollection, at this period of time, there were
- 4 no city officials involved in that planning
- 5 committee.
- 6 Q. At this point in time, you're referring
- 7 to September 2013?
- 8 A. Yes. Now, you may have something that
- 9 jogs my memory, but I -- I think it was mostly
- 10 people in the neighborhood around UMCH.
- Q. So in connection with MKSK's work, WARD
- 12 was interviewed, obviously, and then there's a
- 13 reference to the CIC.
- 14 A. Uh-huh.
- 15 Q. So CIC also participated in interviews?
- 16 A. That's what this reflects. I don't
- 17 specifically recall who on the CIC and to what
- 18 extent they were interviewed.
- 19 O. What is CVB?
- 20 A. Convention and Visitors Bureau.
- O. And how about the OWBA?
- 22 A. That organization -- kind of the
- 23 successor organization to that is Worthington
- 24 Partnership, but that would have been Old

- 1 Worthington Business Association.
- Q. And what does the Worthington
- 3 Partnership or the Worthington Business
- 4 Association do, if you know?
- 5 A. Essentially functions as a main street
- 6 organization advancing the vitality and economic
- 7 activity not only in Old Worthington but, you
- 8 know, throughout Worthington.
- 9 Q. Now to the background on page 1.
- 10 Mr. Brown wrote to you that the proposed
- 11 update -- and that's the comprehensive plan --
- 12 will further clarify how the community would
- 13 like to see the site, being the UMCH site,
- 14 develop in the future. Do you see that?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. As the city manager, did you agree with
- 17 that characterization?
- 18 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection. Relevance.
- 19 A. I think we were seeking to understand
- 20 what the -- what the community, you know, was
- 21 interested in.
- Q. So did you agree with that
- 23 characterization?
- 24 MR. SCHUMACHER: Same objection.

- 1 A. Well, I would have at that time.
- 2 However, I'm not sure we were successful in
- 3 having clear vision of what -- you know, what
- 4 the community wanted.
- 5 Q. But with respect to the update to the
- 6 comprehensive plan --
- 7 A. I would -- I would -- go ahead. I'm
- 8 sorry.
- 9 Q. With respect to the update to the
- 10 comprehensive plan, that was the goal, was to
- 11 solicit community input so that the city could
- 12 understand what the community would like to see
- developed on that site into the future; is that
- 14 fair?
- 15 A. That would have been one of the goals,
- 16 yes.
- 17 MR. SCHUMACHER: I'm sorry, when was
- 18 this again?
- 19 A. This was in 2013. You know, obviously,
- 20 there's a lot that's happened since then. But
- 21 among the goals we were pursuing was to try to
- 22 understand community aspirations, and I think
- that wasn't the sole goal, but that was one of
- the goals, and we pursued that through the

- 1 process outlined here.
- Q. Okay. Anything else? Any other --
- 3 you're pausing. I just want to make sure
- 4 you're -- you're finished answering the
- 5 question.
- 6 A. Yeah, I'm done.
- 7 Q. Okay.
- 8 -=0=-
- 9 (Deposition Exhibit 20 marked.)
- 10 -=0=-
- 11 THE WITNESS: We write a lot of memos,
- 12 don't we? Or did.
- 13 MR. SCHUMACHER: There's no question
- 14 pending.
- 15 BY MR. INGRAM:
- Q. Mr. Greeson, I'm handing you what's been
- 17 marked Exhibit 20, which is a memorandum from
- 18 Darren Hurley, parks and recreation director, to
- 19 you, dated August 5, 2014. Do you see that?
- 20 A. I do.
- Q. And just a few questions with respect to
- 22 Exhibit 20, Mr. Greeson. First of all, Darren
- 23 Hurley was the city's parks and recreation
- 24 director in 2014; is that correct?

- 1 A. Yes. And he is currently the city's
- 2 parks and recreation director.
- Q. Okay. And attached to his memorandum to
- 4 you was a position statement, dated July 23rd,
- 5 2014, to the Worthington City Council from the
- 6 Worthington Parks and Recreation Commission. Do
- 7 you see that?
- 8 A. I see that.
- 9 Q. What is the Worthington Parks and
- 10 Recreation Commission?
- 11 A. It's an advisory commission to the City
- 12 Council and the city on issues related to our
- 13 parks and recreation department and system.
- Q. And what is the parks and recreation's
- 15 director involvement with the parks and
- 16 recreation commission?
- 17 A. He is the staff liaison to it.
- 18 Q. Thank you.
- 19 How are the commissioners selected? Are
- 20 they appointed or --
- 21 A. They are appointed by City Council.
- Q. And who is Bob Burpee?
- 23 A. He was a member of the Parks and
- 24 Recreation Commission, and at the time -- I

- 1 don't know if he is still -- a resident of the
- 2 city.
- 3 Q. In Mr. Hurley's memo to you, he's
- 4 conveying to you that the Parks and Recreation
- 5 Commission made a motion that the Parks and
- 6 Recreation Commission urges City Council to
- 7 consider every opportunity available to maximize
- 8 the amount of UMCH property designated as park
- 9 space for the community.
- 10 Do you see that?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Do you recall that happening?
- 13 A. I recall this memorandum and
- 14 recommendation, or input into the process, yes.
- 15 Q. Did you participate in the input in the
- 16 process of reaching this recommendation?
- 17 A. No, other than attending the meeting --
- 18 Mr. Hurley probably attending the meeting. I
- 19 don't recall that we -- I didn't participate in
- 20 the Parks and Recreation Commission's
- 21 discussion, that I recall.
- 22 Q. Okay.
- 23 A. Nor do I recall even asking for their
- 24 feedback.

- 1 Q. Okay. Fair enough.
- 2 In their letter to City Council, the
- 3 commission said that, in a perfect world, we
- 4 would like for the site to be 100 percent
- 5 parkland and recreation space available for
- 6 community access and events.
- 7 Do you see that? It's at the bottom of
- 8 the first page of their letter.
- 9 A. Yes, I see what's written.
- 10 Q. And they go on on the next page to say
- 11 that, with that said, we realize that the city
- 12 and parks department have limited resources to
- 13 purchase and to maintain such a large parcel of
- 14 land.
- 15 Do you see that?
- 16 A. I do see that written.
- 17 Q. Were there discussions about purchasing
- 18 any portion of the UMCH property for a park
- 19 then?
- 20 A. We had no serious conversations or
- 21 interest in acquiring land at that time, so
- 22 this, that I recall, was not used to instigate,
- 23 you know, an active acquisition effort. It was
- 24 just input into the process that was, you know,

- 1 taken in like any other piece of information. I
- 2 don't have a specific recollection about
- 3 acquisition conversations, but I know that our
- 4 posture, if you will, at that time was that we
- 5 were interested in park space as a balance -- a
- 6 component of a balanced overall development
- 7 plan, not in acquisition of the site.
- 8 Q. Okay. And you mention in your answer
- 9 "at that time." You're referring to the fall of
- 10 2014?
- MR. SCHUMACHER: It was August 5th,
- 12 2014, to be accurate.
- 13 A. Yeah. I would say just generally in
- 14 this time. There's no serious effort or what I
- 15 would call robust conversation regarding
- 16 acquisition. Any dialogue or analysis related
- 17 to that was -- I don't specifically recall.
- 18 There may have been some. Mostly -- because
- 19 citizens and other people were saying why don't
- 20 you guys buy it, you know, asking those kind of
- 21 questions, and I recall answering, well, we
- 22 believe we can achieve meaningful park space as
- 23 a component part of an overall balanced
- 24 development. And generally, the council and

- 1 management at that time did not have any
- 2 interest in acquisition of the property as, you
- 3 know, referenced in this perfect world
- 4 description on the second page of the document
- 5 you handed me.
- 6 Q. In 2014?
- 7 A. In 2014.
- Q. And I just have what's previously marked
- 9 as Exhibit 1. And this is the land use plan.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: That's the whole thing.
- 11 My Exhibit 1 only has -- wait a minute.
- 12 Q. Mr. Greeson --
- MR. SCHUMACHER: The one you handed me
- 14 yesterday has only --
- MR. INGRAM: Counsel, it's the same
- 16 exhibit.
- 17 MR. SCHUMACHER: Oh, you had a whole
- 18 book there. I'm sorry.
- 19 MR. INGRAM: The binder I'm referring to
- 20 has all the exhibits from yesterday.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.
- 22 BY MR. INGRAM:
- Q. Mr. Greeson, I just wanted for your
- 24 benefit to see the City Council's comprehensive

- 1 plan update that was adopted on September 2nd of
- 2 2014. Do you see that?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. And my question is that, based on the
- 5 fact that City Council adopted this update in
- 6 September of 2014, meanwhile, looking at Exhibit
- 7 20, you have a recommendation made to City
- 8 Council in July of 2014, would City Council have
- 9 considered this recommendation prior to adopting
- 10 the comprehensive plan update?
- 11 A. When you say considered, what do you
- 12 mean? Acted upon it?
- 13 Q. Would it have reviewed and considered in
- 14 connection with the 2014 comprehensive plan
- 15 update.
- 16 A. I'm sure we transmitted it to them.
- 17 They reviewed it. My memory is that they took
- 18 it in as, you know, opinion of one of our
- 19 commissions. I don't think they gave it a lot
- 20 of weight. And it certainly didn't guide any --
- 21 it didn't result in any direction to the staff
- 22 to do anything but continue the process as we
- 23 were -- as we were doing. In fact, I think some
- of the councilmembers didn't like that they were

- 1 weighing in and weren't interested in
- 2 acquisition and found this a little
- 3 inconvenient.
- 4 That being said, the parks commission
- 5 has no role in zoning. Their role might be to
- 6 offer ways to improve the park system, so it's
- 7 not surprising that people that love parks and
- 8 desire to be on a park commission might want
- 9 more parks. But Worthington does a good job of
- 10 everybody respecting their roles, and it would
- 11 have been input into the process. The planning
- 12 commission's role was to make the recommendation
- on the overall plan to the City Council.
- Q. In 2014, did the city have the funds to
- 15 spend or purchase the UMCH property for a park?
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection. Relevance.
- 17 Answer if you know.
- 18 A. I can't speak to the specific balances
- in 2014 without going back and reviewing those
- 20 documents, but we certainly had some financial
- 21 constraints. Would have been concerned about
- 22 expending a large sum of money on new park
- 23 acquisition that that both cost upfront capital
- 24 and money to develop ongoing maintenance. And

- 1 believed that, again, with a balanced
- 2 development, you know, there could be, you know,
- 3 amenities and park space that was part of the
- 4 development without having to acquire property.
- 5 Q. Okay. Fair enough.
- -=0=-
- 7 (Deposition Exhibit 21 marked.)
- 8 -=0=-
- 9 BY MR. INGRAM:
- 10 Q. Mr. Greeson, I've handed you what's been
- 11 marked as Exhibit 22 -- or 21. And Exhibit 21
- 12 is entitled the UMCH Focus Area Checklist. It's
- on the planning and building letterhead, and
- 14 it's Bates numbered Worthington 28377 through
- 15 28380. Do you see that, Mr. Greeson?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. And I'll represent to you that from the
- 18 metadata of the file it looks to have been from
- 19 the March 4, 2015, date. For our purposes, just
- 20 to orient on the timing space and our
- 21 discussion, at least from the metadata, this
- 22 looks to be from March of 2015. Do you
- 23 recognize this document?
- 24 A. No. That doesn't mean I didn't see it

- 1 at the time.
- Q. Sure.
- 3 A. I don't recall it.
- 4 Q. With your involvement with the UMCH
- 5 focus area as the city manager, would you have
- 6 expected that the planning and building folks
- 7 provide you a copy of this checklist?
- 8 A. They may have. But it wouldn't have
- 9 been necessary as long as it was, you know,
- 10 drawn from the plan itself. It appears to me to
- 11 be an internal tool to help, you know, guide
- 12 evaluation and not -- seek to not miss things
- 13 that were important. It may not be
- 14 all-inclusive, and I don't have a specific
- 15 memory of its use.
- 16 Q. Okay. Who would have prepared this, if
- 17 you know?
- 18 A. I expect it would be Mr. Brown, although
- 19 I don't specifically know that he prepared it.
- 20 Ms. Bitar may have contributed to it.
- Q. Was it standard to create checklists for
- 22 the redevelopment of private property in the
- 23 city?
- A. I don't know. I don't know if they had

- 1 an internal -- I don't know if they did this
- 2 regularly or not. They're very detail oriented.
- 3 So if there are other checklists like this,
- 4 there may be. I'm not sure.
- 5 Q. While you were city manager, were you
- 6 ever presented with a checklist of this nature
- 7 on any other project?
- 8 A. I don't recall. And I think you also --
- 9 you know, this is probably one of the, again,
- 10 most context sensitive larger sites. A lot of
- 11 moving parts and pieces, and so certainly some
- 12 kind of tool to make sure that details aren't
- 13 lost. And the evaluation process is important,
- 14 so I would have viewed this as good
- 15 administration for a more complex project or
- 16 site, and -- but I don't -- this has been a lot
- 17 of time and so I don't -- there's been a lot of
- 18 things that have happened since then and I
- 19 don't -- I don't have a specific memory of this
- 20 checklist or any others.
- Q. When Lifestyles submitted its
- 22 application to rezone the property in the 2020
- 23 time period, did the city create -- did anyone
- 24 from the city create, to your knowledge, a

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1 checklist similar to this?
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- 2 A. I honestly don't recall.
- 3 Q. Did you see one?
- 4 A. I don't recall whether I did or not.
- 5 -=0=-
- 6 (Deposition Exhibit 22 marked.)
- 7 -=0=-
- 8 BY MR. INGRAM:
- 9 Q. Mr. Greeson, you've been handed what's
- 10 been marked as Exhibit 22, which is an email
- 11 from you to Lee Brown and Jeff Harris, dated
- 12 July 30, 2015, and it's actually an email chain,
- 13 I'll call it. Do you see that?
- 14 A. Uh-huh.
- 15 Q. And --
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. And just for the record, the email
- 18 address that's listed here in the from line, is
- 19 that -- was that your Worthington email address?
- 20 A. It was at the time. It changed later to
- 21 at Worthington.org. But yes, that was the --
- 22 that was my email at the time.
- 23 Q. Okay.
- 24 A. It appears.

- 1 O. And you were sending an email about a
- 2 grant program in which the subject was \$3.1
- 3 million of Clean Ohio Conservation Funds
- 4 available for Franklin County, and in your email
- 5 you say that I want to discuss this in
- 6 relationship to UMCH. Do you see that?
- 7 A. Uh-huh.
- 8 Q. And in the email that you're
- 9 forwarding --
- 10 A. Yes, I should say.
- 11 Q. Good catch.
- 12 In the email that you were forwarding,
- 13 this grant program says that the funds can be
- 14 used to acquire green space and/or repair --
- 15 and/or restore riparian corridors.
- 16 Do you recall that?
- 17 A. I see that I did it. I don't have it --
- 18 yes, I recall it.
- 19 Q. Okay. With respect to the UMCH
- 20 property, what did you do with respect to
- 21 pursuing any grant funds?
- 22 A. I think -- going off faded memory here,
- 23 but I think this was just internal staff looking
- 24 at grant funds that may become available and

- 1 discussing whether or not it had applicability
- 2 to the UMCH property. And in this program it
- 3 would have been, you know, kind of the Tucker
- 4 Creek area. There were times in the dialogue
- 5 with -- internally and with the community where
- 6 we were hearing that there was a desire to park
- 7 space that we said, well, if we needed to do
- 8 that as part of a development, there's ways to
- 9 accomplish that. You can acquire it, you can
- 10 try to -- you can ask the developer to do it,
- 11 you can, you know, seek grant funds so it's not
- 12 all on the back of the developer, or not all
- 13 financially required by the developer. And we
- 14 were just imagining approaches to addressing the
- 15 questions that we were getting from the
- 16 community.
- 17 We didn't apply for any grant funds. We
- 18 weren't directed to apply for any grant funds.
- 19 I don't think we ever had any serious
- 20 conversation with council about applying for
- 21 grant funds, or nor did we take any of the
- 22 actions that would be necessary to actually
- 23 initiate acquisition of property like talking to
- 24 the property owner, appraisals, acquisition

- 1 attorneys, all of that stuff. It was mostly
- 2 internal research.
- 3 Q. Okay. And with respect to this
- 4 particular grant opportunity and its
- 5 relationship or connection to the UMCH property,
- 6 you were reviewing this in connection with
- 7 acquiring green space, not to restore riparian
- 8 corridors, correct?
- 9 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection. Misstates
- 10 his prior testimony.
- 11 A. I think the area -- my knowledge of this
- 12 program, which is limited, is that in order to
- 13 be successful in obtaining funds, you got to
- 14 think about the conservation benefit of the
- 15 project. So acquiring green space would -- it
- 16 would be most successful if it included
- 17 repairing corridors, which on that property
- 18 is -- that property being the LC property -- is
- 19 the Tucker Creek area. So I'm not -- I'm not
- 20 sure where your question is going with that.
- Q. Well, I guess, I just wanted to
- 22 understand whether there were any issues with
- 23 the Tucker Creek area that needed repair or
- 24 restoration, or if you're saying --

- 1 A. I don't know the answer to that.
- 2 Q. Okay.
- 3 A. This was just seeing a grant opportunity
- 4 and asking my staff to look into its
- 5 applicability and utility for, you know, that
- 6 site.
- 7 O. Gotcha. That makes sense.
- 8 MR. SCHUMACHER: This would be going
- 9 much faster if Emily were here. History lesson.
- 10 THE REPORTER: Sometimes I cannot hear
- 11 you, Mr. Schumacher.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Oh, believe me, you
- 13 don't want to hear me.
- MR. INGRAM: No, I think she needs to
- 15 hear you so all of your comments can go on the
- 16 record, Mr. Schumacher.
- 17 MR. SCHUMACHER: I think you're doing a
- 18 fine job, Chris. You heard that, right?
- -=0=-
- 20 (Deposition Exhibit 23 marked.)
- -=0=-
- 22 BY MR. INGRAM:
- Q. Mr. Greeson, I've handed you what's been
- 24 marked as Exhibit 24, which is an email from

- 1 Scott Myers to you, dated August 23rd, 2016.
- 2 And again, this is an email chain, for purposes
- 3 of the record. Do you see that?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Mr. Myers was a member of City Council
- 6 at the time, correct?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And --
- 9 MR. SCHUMACHER: Have you had a chance
- 10 to read it?
- 11 THE WITNESS: Give me one more minute,
- 12 please.
- MR. INGRAM: Sure. Sorry. I thought he
- 14 had already read the email chain.
- 15 A. Okay.
- 16 Q. Turning to the second page of Exhibit
- 17 24, there is an email from David Robinson to
- 18 you, CC'ing Bonnie Michael. Do you see that?
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you recall receiving this message?
- 21 A. I recall the meeting. I don't recall
- 22 the specific message.
- Q. When you're referring to the meeting,
- 24 which meeting are you referring to?

- 1 A. I believe the meeting of 8-24, or
- 2 meetings in that time frame.
- 3 Q. And who was that meeting with?
- 4 A. Representatives of WARD, OWA, and then I
- 5 believe Mr. Robinson. Members of the community,
- 6 I should say, that were interested in the UMCH
- 7 project.
- 8 Q. And Mr. Robinson, is this David
- 9 Robinson, the current president of the City
- 10 Council of Worthington?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And beneath his signature line of his
- 13 email it says, Keep Worthington Beautiful in
- 14 italics. Do you see that?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. What was Keep Worthington Beautiful, or
- 17 what is it?
- 18 A. Keep Worthington Beautiful was a -- was
- 19 a campaign -- well, that was the nomenclature or
- 20 marketing slogan, whatever you would call it --
- 21 I'm not sure -- of the group that led a process
- to amend the charter, which was Issue 38 on the
- 23 ballot and extended the time frame in which
- 24 signatures could be collected to place on the

- 1 ballot, voter consideration of a zoning
- 2 amendment.
- 3 Q. And at this time Mr. Robinson was not on
- 4 City Council, correct?
- 5 A. I don't believe so. I can't remember
- 6 the exact date he got elected, but no, I don't
- 7 think so.
- 8 Q. And based on your meetings with
- 9 Mr. Robinson, what was his role within the Keep
- 10 Worthington Beautiful campaign or whatever you
- 11 want to call it?
- 12 A. I don't think I'm the one that can
- define his role. He was one of the leaders, I
- 14 would -- what that entailed, you'd have to ask
- 15 him.
- Q. Sure. He was reaching out to you and
- 17 had met with you and obviously discussed the
- 18 UMCH property?
- 19 A. I had not had extensive conversations
- 20 with Mr. Robinson about the property. He was,
- 21 sometime in this time frame, beginning to join
- 22 kind of some of the conversations that had been
- 23 ongoing, mostly questions that I was getting
- 24 from other citizens and that kind of had formed

- 1 themselves in groups like WARD and OWA. And so
- 2 he was an additional citizen part of those
- 3 groups that were, you know, cross-collaborating
- 4 and asking city officials questions.
- 5 Q. Sure. And looking at his email to you
- 6 in Exhibit 24, one of his questions is about
- 7 what an eventual park or green space would look
- 8 like on the UMCH property, fair?
- 9 MR. SCHUMACHER: Did he ask that
- 10 question?
- 11 A. I think he says the opposite. So
- 12 questions about -- I'm reading from the second
- 13 page of the document you provided me. It says,
- 14 questions about what an eventual park would look
- 15 like or how green space fits in with other goals
- 16 are premature at this point since they can only
- 17 be addressed after the residents obtain and
- 18 study the information we have requested. And
- 19 there was a bunch of information they requested
- 20 that I had to take a while to compile and
- 21 respond to.
- Q. And what were their questions about that
- you were compiling and responding to?
- 24 A. I would have to review the record to

- 1 answer that question specifically because there
- 2 was a volume of questions. It included
- 3 financial information, planning information, and
- 4 then more generally kind of the conceptual
- 5 options that are available to cities, you know,
- 6 when dealing with, you know, property
- 7 redevelopment.
- 8 Q. Those questions did include, however,
- 9 questions about locating a park or additional
- 10 green space on the UMCH property, correct?
- 11 A. Again, I would have to review the memos
- 12 that I wrote in response to them to recall the
- 13 specific questions that they answered -- they
- 14 asked. But that was one of their interests.
- 15 Q. Okay. All right. That being one of
- 16 their interests, you're referring to their
- 17 interest in a green space or park; is that fair?
- 18 A. Yes, and how cities accomplish that as
- 19 part of -- either as part of development or
- 20 strategies for accomplishing that as well as
- 21 other goals.
- Q. And I think, if we turn to Councilman
- 23 Myers' email to you, he seems rather frustrated
- 24 that they're referring -- they being

- 1 Mr. Robinson refers to green space and park, but
- 2 doesn't define what that even means. Do you see
- 3 that?
- 4 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection. What's the
- 5 question? If he sees that?
- 6 Q. You can answer, Mr. Greeson.
- 7 MR. SCHUMACHER: Because you didn't
- 8 quote that exactly.
- 9 A. I'm sorry, I was reading while you were
- 10 asking.
- 11 MR. SCHUMACHER: Excuse me. I'm
- 12 objecting because you didn't quote it exactly,
- and now you then asked him a question if he sees
- 14 it. So all I want to know is, what are you
- 15 asking him?
- MR. INGRAM: Well, counsel, my question
- 17 was clear, was straightforward.
- 18 MR. SCHUMACHER: No, it wasn't.
- 19 MR. INGRAM: I'm not going to sit here
- 20 and read documents to him and ask him whether I
- 21 read it correctly or not. There's a waste of
- 22 time.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: No. You --
- MR. INGRAM: Can you let me finish

- 1 talking before you start?
- 2 MR. SCHUMACHER: Yes. Please do.
- 3 Please.
- 4 MR. INGRAM: We're not going to sit
- 5 here -- I'm not going to read statements or
- 6 content from these exhibits and ask the witness
- 7 whether or not I read it correctly. All I am
- 8 doing is directing his attention to the portion
- 9 of the document.
- 10 MR. SCHUMACHER: Are you finished?
- MR. INGRAM: Go ahead.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: You misquoted the
- document and then asked him if he sees that.
- 14 That question is imprecise. If you're asking
- 15 him if he sees the quote in the document, that's
- 16 a different question. But you can't misquote
- 17 the document and then say, do you see that. All
- 18 right? That is a misleading question. So all
- 19 I'm saying is if you want to ask him if he sees
- 20 a sentence of the document, please do so. Don't
- 21 misquote the sentence and then ask him if he
- 22 sees that.
- 23 MR. INGRAM: Counsel, I have never said
- 24 I was quoting the document, number one. Number

- 1 two --
- 2 MR. SCHUMACHER: That's true.
- 3 MR. INGRAM: -- if you would stop with
- 4 the speaking objections and just object to the
- 5 form, this could really go a lot faster.
- 6 BY MR. INGRAM:
- 7 Q. Mr. Greeson, do you understand my
- 8 question?
- 9 MR. SCHUMACHER: I'd like to make sure
- 10 the record is clear.
- 11 A. No, I don't, because my ability to
- 12 multitask is apparently not as good as I thought
- 13 it was. I was trying to read and listen to you
- 14 at the same time, which I was unsuccessful at.
- 15 Could you repeat your question?
- 16 Q. All right. Have you had an opportunity
- 17 to review Mr. Myers' email to you on Exhibit 24?
- 18 A. I have read it as it is in front of me
- 19 here today.
- Q. Reading his email, at least to me he
- 21 appears frustrated. Do you agree with that?
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection.
- A. I'm not going to characterize Mr. Myers'
- 24 posture on this email.

- 1 Q. Okay. He's making reference to
- 2 Mr. Robinson's use of the terms green space and
- 3 park. Do you see that?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And Councilman Myers is noting that
- 6 Mr. Myers doesn't define what that means, what
- 7 he's referring to as either a green space or
- 8 park. Do you see that?
- 9 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection.
- 10 A. I do see that. I think he's having a
- 11 hard time discerning what would satisfy his
- 12 constituents.
- Q. "His constituents" being Mr. Robinson?
- 14 A. "His constituents" being all of the
- 15 voters of Worthington, of which at the time
- 16 Mr. Robinson was one.
- 17 Q. He goes on to say that they still want
- 18 us to do all their work with no real guidance of
- 19 what they want. Do you see that?
- 20 A. I do see that.
- Q. What was your understanding of what
- 22 Mr. Robinson wanted the city to do?
- 23 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection.
- A. There's a timing issue here. I'm not

- 1 sure at this time. I can say that members of
- 2 the group that I met with -- and I would put
- 3 Mr. Robinson in that category -- were desirous
- 4 of, you know, a significant park and believed
- 5 that the work we had done on the comprehensive
- 6 plan did not reflect a community consensus and
- 7 was, you know, not the right strategic
- 8 direction.
- 9 And so not all -- I don't think you can
- 10 characterize all people that were involved in
- 11 WARD and OWA and Keep Worthington Beautiful as
- 12 having the same thought process. Although they
- 13 worked together, they may have different
- 14 opinions, but I think he was interested in a
- 15 significant park space.
- 16 Q. And a significant park space being on
- 17 the UMCH property?
- 18 A. Yes. And -- and disagreed probably with
- 19 some of the strategies and goals outlined in the
- 20 comprehensive plan and reflected a body of
- 21 people in the community that thought differently
- 22 about that than maybe others.
- 23 Again, it was a center of a lot of
- 24 controversy, very context sensitive site, a lot

- 1 of people cared about -- and still care about
- 2 what happens to it. So central to the future of
- 3 the city. And there were strongly held beliefs
- 4 about the directions we would take.
- 5 So my posture at the time was to -- just
- 6 be clear about it, my posture at the time was --
- 7 we're talking 2016. There was no development
- 8 application by UMCH or Lifestyle, whoever was in
- 9 control of it at the time. And I was trying
- 10 to -- they weren't very -- you know, they
- 11 weren't communicating. I'm not sure there was
- 12 anything that they had put out there that the
- 13 community could absorb. So we were fielding
- 14 questions, trying to answer questions, and
- 15 provide information that might inform the public
- 16 dialogue about the future of, you know, what the
- 17 city -- the future of the property and the
- 18 city's position towards it.
- 19 And so I felt obligated at the time to
- 20 respond to citizens' questions and at least meet
- 21 with them and help, you know, create a better
- 22 climate for good decision-making.
- Q. Okay. And Exhibit 23 is from the 2016
- 24 time frame. Do you recall that Lifestyle had

- 1 previously provided the community with
- 2 conceptual plans and held a large public meeting
- 3 at the WEC in around the 2015 time frame?
- 4 A. Yes. Here we were maybe a year later.
- 5 Q. Give or take.
- 6 A. Yeah. And -- yes, give or take. Not
- 7 recalling the specific date of the meeting at
- 8 the WEC. And they had, you know, not come
- 9 forward with anything new, that I recall.
- 10 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection.
- 11 A. "They" being --
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Go ahead. I'm sorry.
- 13 A. "They" being Lifestyle. Representatives
- of Lifestyle or anybody else from UMCH, there
- 15 was nothing new under the sun, and so,
- 16 therefore, I think members of the community were
- 17 starting to ask questions, wondering what the
- 18 future would be, and suggesting that, you know,
- 19 potentially our planning was flawed.
- Now that I provided that answer, I'm
- 21 going to go use the bathroom real quickly,
- 22 because I've obviously had more coffee than
- 23 everyone else.
- MR. INGRAM: All right. Let's take a

- 1 break.
- 2 (Recess.)
- 3 BY MR. INGRAM:
- 4 Q. Mr. Greeson, we are back from our second
- 5 break.
- 6 A. I'll drink a little less.
- 7 Q. When did the city first become aware of
- 8 Lifestyle's interest to purchase the UMCH
- 9 property?
- 10 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection. The city,
- 11 or Mr. Greeson?
- 12 A. I can't recall specifically. In and
- 13 around the time we adopted the 2014
- 14 comprehensive plan amendment, I think.
- 15 Q. So clearly before the meeting at the
- 16 WEC?
- 17 A. Oh, yes. Yes.
- 18 Q. And do you recall how the city learned
- 19 of Lifestyle's involvement with the property?
- 20 A. I don't have a specific recollection of
- 21 it.
- -=0=-
- 23 (Deposition Exhibit 24 marked.)
- 24 -=0=-

- 1 BY MR. INGRAM:
- Q. Mr. Greeson, I've handed you what's been
- 3 marked as Exhibit 24, which is an email from Lee
- 4 Brown to you, dated January 18, 2018. Do you
- 5 see that?
- 6 A. Yes. I'd like a chance to finish
- 7 reading it, please.
- 8 Q. Sure.
- 9 Have you read the --
- 10 A. Yes, I have. I've read the memo you put
- 11 in front of me, Exhibit 24.
- 12 O. Exhibit 24 is an email --
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. -- from Mr. Brown to you, correct?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. And the subject of the email is UMCH
- 17 talking points, correct?
- 18 A. It is.
- 19 Q. And so is Exhibit 24 something that you
- 20 would have -- an email that you would have
- 21 received and reviewed from Mr. Brown?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you recall this particular
- 24 circumstance in which Lifestyles was seeking to

- 1 split off 5 acres of the property for a
- 2 development?
- 3 A. I generally recall the issue. I didn't
- 4 remember the specific email.
- 5 Q. Sure. And what do you recall from that
- 6 issue?
- 7 A. Basically what's outlined here in
- 8 Exhibit 24, and that they didn't pursue that, to
- 9 the best of my recollection, but that we --
- 10 Mr. Brown did his job, which was to communicate
- 11 with interested parties about what the
- 12 requirements and the codified ordinances
- 13 would -- would need to be followed.
- Q. Okay. And do you recall why the 5 acres
- 15 depicted on the second page of Exhibit 24 were
- 16 not ultimately split off or why this was not
- 17 completed?
- 18 A. I don't specifically recall, although
- 19 you might produce something that jogs my memory.
- 20 I don't specifically recall.
- 21 Q. Okay.
- -=0=-
- 23 (Deposition Exhibit 25 marked.)
- 24 -=0=-

- 1 MR. SCHUMACHER: That's a jump.
- 2 BY MR. INGRAM:
- Q. Mr. Greeson, I've handed you what's been
- 4 marked as Exhibit 25, which is an email chain,
- 5 and I'm going to focus on the email from you to
- 6 members of City Council and others dated March
- 7 31st, 2020, the subject of which was the
- 8 OhioHealth UMCH project formal withdrawal of
- 9 zoning application. Do you see that?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And do you recall sending this email?
- 12 A. I don't have a specific recollection of
- sending this email, but I did, and it would be
- 14 the type of thing I might provide to council in
- 15 order to inform them about what was happening --
- 16 important things that were happening in the
- 17 community.
- 18 Q. Okay. Did you have conversations with
- 19 anyone from OhioHealth about the zoning
- 20 application for their use of the UMCH site?
- 21 A. I believe I was in some meetings related
- 22 to this application, not all of them. And
- 23 yes -- so the answer to your question is yes,
- 24 although I don't have a specific recollection of

- 1 which meetings on what date or the content of
- 2 those meetings.
- 3 Q. Sure. Just generally, you're referring
- 4 to meetings, plural. Were there a lot of
- 5 meetings? How many meetings --
- 6 A. You would have to ask Mr. Brown. I
- 7 don't have a specific recollection.
- 8 Q. And that was going to be my next
- 9 question. Who would have joined you in those
- 10 meetings from the city?
- 11 A. The staff that were involved in
- development review, Mr. Brown, and potentially
- others depending on -- well, let me back up.
- 14 OhioHealth had two forays into this site and
- 15 interest in the site. One was first -- or this
- 16 area. The first one was potentially developing
- 17 a smaller office building and stand-alone
- 18 ER/urgent care kind of thing in the parking lot
- 19 of the West Ohio Conference, which was later
- 20 subdivided from the larger UMCH property.
- Then they also looked at the corner of
- 22 Larrimer and High Street, which I think is
- 23 what's being referenced here. And so the staff
- 24 worked with OhioHealth in both iterations, one

- 1 of which would have not required a rezoning. It
- 2 would have been a subdivision. And then a
- 3 larger building that did require rezoning on the
- 4 corner. And I think in both instances, you
- 5 know, were supportive, and we worked with them
- 6 professionally and diligently through the
- 7 process, as we would with anybody.
- 8 Q. And with respect to OhioHealth's
- 9 rezoning application to utilize the corner of
- 10 Larrimer and High Street --
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. -- that's part of the UMCH property, or
- 13 the UMCH site, correct?
- 14 A. Yes. There were two homes that weren't
- 15 part of it that it's my understanding LC has
- 16 purchased. I don't specifically recall when
- 17 they purchased those in relationship to this
- 18 OhioHealth project, but yes, the corner -- the
- 19 vacant land at the time, that corner is part of
- 20 the UMCH site.
- Q. And the corner from Larrimer and High,
- 22 would that project for OhioHealth have required
- 23 the rezoning? I'm trying to decipher which of
- 24 the two projects you referenced would have

- 1 required the rezoning. That's all.
- 2 A. So I don't have a recollection of the
- 3 technical issues associated with this project.
- 4 You'd have to ask Lee about that and why it
- 5 required a rezoning and what pieces, you know,
- 6 triggered that or caused that. But yes, we
- 7 worked with them.
- 8 Q. And chronologically, you referenced two
- 9 OMCH proposals for this property, the UMCH
- 10 property?
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Excuse me. OMCH?
- 12 MR. INGRAM: Strike that. Let me start
- 13 over.
- 14 MR. SCHUMACHER: See, I'm listening.
- 15 BY MR. INGRAM:
- Q. You referenced two OhioHealth projects
- 17 for use of the UMCH site. Just chronologically,
- 18 which came first, the Larrimer and High project
- 19 or the other project?
- 20 A. My recollection, subject, you know, to
- 21 looking at the record, was that the project that
- 22 would have been placed in what is now a portion
- 23 of the West Ohio Conference's parking lot came
- 24 first. Second came the corner of Larrimer and

- 1 Longfellow. And then somewhere in there the
- West Ohio Conference exercised what I presume
- 3 was their right under whatever contractual
- 4 relationships exist between them and UMCH to
- 5 split off the land that they sit on, making the
- 6 parent parcel smaller.
- 7 Q. Because it was 40-something acres and
- 8 now it's 37?
- 9 A. Correct. So the frontage on High Street
- 10 and the overall acreage is smaller as a result
- 11 of that decision.
- 12 Q. And earlier you said that we supported
- 13 OhioHealth's projects. Who's the "we" that
- 14 you're referring to?
- 15 A. Yeah. Let me characterize that.
- 16 Basically staff. I think we thought it was
- 17 consistent with the -- we thought the existing
- 18 zoning supported commercial development in that
- 19 area and was appropriate use for that corner.
- 20 But I don't -- what I don't recall is whether it
- 21 ever led to any specific recommendations. My
- 22 memory is that at least one of those was
- 23 prepared to be put on the agenda and -- for
- voting before it was withdrawn, and then, you

- 1 know, I think OhioHealth had done community
- 2 engagement and, you know, discussed the issue
- 3 fairly openly and were, you know, moving towards
- 4 more formal decisions before they withdrew.
- 5 Q. And do you recall the circumstances that
- 6 led to the withdrawal of the application?
- 7 A. I can't specifically remember at this
- 8 point.
- 9 Q. Do you know why they did?
- 10 A. My indirect understanding, not based on
- 11 direct knowledge, is that they couldn't reach
- 12 terms with Lifestyle. But I'm not party to that
- 13 conversation, so I don't know directly.
- 14 Q. And what is your indirect knowledge
- 15 based on?
- 16 A. I don't remember.
- 17 Q. Okay. Just something you think you
- 18 heard or --
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you recall from whom?
- 21 A. No. I don't recall there was any
- 22 specific concern with the city.
- -=0=-
- 24 (Deposition Exhibit 26 marked.)

1 -=0=-

- 2 BY MR. INGRAM:
- 3 I've handed you what's been marked as 0.
- 4 Exhibit 26, which is an email from you to
- 5 members of council and others from the City of
- 6 Worthington.
- 7 Give me one more second.
- 8 Q. Okay.
- 9 MR. SCHUMACHER: (Indiscernible.)
- THE REPORTER: I'm sorry? Excuse me? 10
- 11 I'm talking to my MR. SCHUMACHER:
- 12 co-counsel. Sorry.
- 13 Α. Okay. Thank you.
- 14 Mr. Greeson, Exhibit Number 26 is an Q.
- email from you to members of Worthington council 15
- and other folks from Worthington, dated April 16
- 19, 2016. Do you see that? 17
- 18 Α. I do.
- 19 And the subject was the UMCH update? 0.
- 20 Α. Yes.
- 21 I think I just grabbed the exhibits out
- 22 I meant to show you this one first of order.
- chronologically. There's a reference here to 23
- 24 the proposed 30,000 square foot Ohio medical

- 1 office facility on High Street.
- 2 A. Are we talking about 26?
- 3 Q. 26. Yes.
- 4 MR. SCHUMACHER: Exhibit.
- 5 A. Exhibit 26. Yes. That's the project in
- 6 the parking lot of the West Ohio Conference, as
- 7 I described earlier.
- 8 Q. Okay. And so when you were -- when you
- 9 described the two different proposals, the first
- one in time would have been the project outlined
- in -- or you summarized in Exhibit 26, fair?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Okay. And then the second proposal had
- 14 an actual formal application, and that's the
- 15 proposal at Larrimer and High Street, which is
- 16 referenced in Exhibit 25; is that accurate?
- 17 A. So you'll have to ask Lee or look at the
- 18 record. The 30,000 square foot OhioHealth
- 19 medical office facility may have also had a
- 20 formal application, but if my memory serves me
- 21 correct, it would have been a subdivision, not a
- 22 rezoning application.
- I want to correct you. No, they may
- 24 have both -- they may have both had formal

- 1 applications. They're just applying for
- 2 different things.
- 3 Q. Got it. So there was only one rezoning
- 4 application that you were referencing earlier;
- 5 there may have been another type of approval
- 6 associated with the first project?
- 7 A. That's what my memory is. Again, I
- 8 think Mr. Brown would -- or the record might
- 9 clarify that.
- 10 Q. And do you know what happened with
- 11 OhioHealth's first proposal that's referenced
- 12 here in Exhibit 26, why that didn't go forward?
- 13 A. My memory is that the West Ohio
- 14 Conference decided to exercise whatever
- 15 authority they had related to their property and
- 16 to go ahead and purchase it and subdivide it off
- 17 from the larger UMCH parcel and ultimately
- 18 concluded it wasn't interested in moving forward
- 19 with part of their parking lot being developed.
- Obviously, as city manager, I'm not
- 21 party to the private conversations between the
- 22 West Ohio Conference, the United Methodist
- 23 Children's Home, and Lifestyle, if they were
- 24 involved. But I think the zoning and

- 1 subdivision laws weren't the issue. I think the
- 2 issue was, you know, private.
- 3 Q. Okay. But do you have any direct
- 4 knowledge of what the issue was?
- 5 A. I was not directly involved in it, no.
- 6 Q. And did the West Ohio Conference
- 7 ultimately, then, continue to use the portion
- 8 that they subdivided; in other words, are they
- 9 still there today?
- 10 A. I believe they are still here today.
- -=0=-
- 12 (Deposition Exhibit 27 marked.)
- -=0=-
- 14 BY MR. INGRAM:
- 15 Q. Mr. Greeson, I've handed you what's been
- 16 marked as Exhibit 27, which is a memorandum from
- 17 Management Partners to you and Robyn Stewart,
- 18 dated April 2nd, 2018, with Bates numbered
- 19 Worthington 55122 through 55159. Do you see
- 20 that?
- 21 A. Yes, I do. Can you give me -- this is a
- 22 substantial document. Can you give me just a
- 23 few minutes?
- Q. Sure. If you want to skim through the

- 1 document and refamiliarize yourself with it.
- 2 I'm not going to ask you a significant number of
- 3 questions about the content of the memorandum,
- 4 but take as much time as you like.
- 5 A. Okay. Thank you.
- 6 Okay.
- 7 Q. Mr. Greeson, have you had an opportunity
- 8 to review all of Exhibit 27?
- 9 A. I have skimmed it, not read it
- 10 thoroughly.
- 11 Q. Okay. It's our understanding that City
- 12 Council holds annual retreats.
- 13 A. Not always annual.
- 14 Q. Okay.
- 15 A. But periodic.
- 16 Q. Okay. And do you recall, did City
- 17 Council conduct a retreat in 2018?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Okay. And would this Exhibit 27, the
- 20 memorandum from Management Partners, have been
- 21 in connection with one of City Council's
- 22 retreats?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. Why did City Council hold these

- 1 retreats?
- 2 A. I don't recall the specific one. What
- 3 the rationale is, one, because it's a good
- 4 practice. Two, often to build relationships,
- 5 develop priorities or focuses for the year, to
- 6 work through issues, if there are any that need
- 7 to be specifically discussed in a retreat
- 8 setting, and to spend time outside of a formal
- 9 council meeting where there's business decisions
- 10 that need to be made, you know, to talk about
- 11 strategic direction, goals, how we work
- 12 together, and how we can work better together.
- 13 And so this report reflects a lot of
- 14 conversation, as you can see, about council
- 15 expectations of staff, how council wants to work
- 16 together and a variety of things that the city
- 17 was working on at the time.
- 18 Q. And these City Council retreats are
- 19 considered public meetings?
- 20 A. Yes, always public meetings.
- Q. Are records kept from what's discussed
- 22 at those public meetings?
- 23 A. This is the record in summary or
- 24 minutes, I believe, if you will, of the meeting.

- 1 O. Okav. And members of council attend the
- 2 meeting -- the retreats, obviously. And what
- 3 city staff attends?
- 4 A. Different at different times. So
- 5 sometimes it's just been the manager and the law
- 6 director, a few key staff. Sometimes it's the
- 7 entire directors group, so all of the department
- 8 directors. Other times it's been like Friday
- 9 night just the council and management, and then
- 10 Saturday the directors would come in. So it's
- 11 varied. It depends on what we're discussing.
- 12 And I don't specifically recall the attendance
- 13 of --
- 14 Q. Sure. I'm asking you generally.
- 15 A. Yes, generally.
- 16 Q. Does anyone from the city maintain
- 17 records as far as who attended the particular
- 18 retreat or what was discussed, things of that
- 19 nature?
- 20 A. Exhibit 27 is the City's record.
- 21 Q. Okay.
- 22 A. There may also be additional records
- 23 that reflect who was there and, you know, what
- 24 was done, but I don't know that I can speak to

- 1 those at this point.
- 2 Q. So Management Partners is obviously a
- 3 third party or a consultant, correct?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And so the city, I take it, from time to
- 6 time utilized facilitators for these retreats;
- 7 is that fair?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And the city is relying on the
- 10 facilitator to provide the written record or the
- 11 notes for council's benefit; is that fair?
- 12 A. Yes.
- Q. Did City Council utilize a facilitator
- 14 at all of its annual retreats?
- MR. SCHUMACHER: You're asking during
- 16 his tenure?
- 17 MR. INGRAM: Yes.
- 18 A. I don't have a specific recollection of
- 19 one that we didn't use it, but there may have
- 20 been a time we didn't use one.
- 21 Q. Okay.
- 22 A. In most instances we used a facilitator,
- 23 not always the same one.
- Q. And with respect to the retreats where

- 1 you would have used a facilitator --
- 2 A. Yes.
- 4 facilitator to provide a written summary of that
- 5 particular retreat, like we have here in Exhibit
- 6 27?
- 7 A. Yes. I'm not sure if there are any
- 8 instances where we didn't require that, but in
- 9 most instances I believe we relied on a
- 10 facilitator to give some summary. And I can
- 11 think of four different facilitators we used
- 12 over the course of time.
- 13 Q. And who are they?
- 14 A. Jane Dockery, who at the time worked at
- 15 Wright State. Marty Jenkins, who is
- 16 Organizational Resources Group, which he helped
- 17 develop the council expectations document that's
- 18 on the back pages of Exhibit 27. Management
- 19 Partners. Julia Novak from now Raftelis Novak
- 20 Consulting. And Herb Marlowe, a company called
- 21 Analytica. So that's more than four. That's
- 22 five.
- 23 Q. Very good memory.
- 24 And who would these facilitators provide

- 1 their retreat summaries to? Would that be to
- 2 you in each instance?
- 3 A. I believe so.
- 4 Q. And with respect to the items that are
- 5 discussed at the City Council's retreats, who
- 6 selects what's going to be discussed at the
- 7 retreat?
- 8 A. That's a good question. They usually
- 9 emerge from a set of interviews that the
- 10 facilitator conducts, and then it's not always
- 11 issues, it's -- well, as you can tell here, we
- 12 framed it -- I don't have the agenda for this,
- 13 but there would be an accompanying agenda
- 14 probably, and it would have been -- it would
- 15 have -- we would have framed an agenda rooted in
- 16 the kind of themes that were heard from the
- 17 facilitator's interview of the participants, and
- 18 identified the things that needed to be focused
- 19 on in broad categories and that would have
- 20 formed kind of the steps of the -- of the
- 21 process.
- Q. Okay. So if I'm following you, the --
- 23 A. It would have been generally myself, the
- 24 facilitator, and the council president who would

- 1 have talked about how the weekend was going to
- 2 go.
- 3 Q. So the facilitator would have
- 4 interviewed members of council, like each of the
- 5 members?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 O. And would have --
- 8 A. Maybe not in every instance, but in most
- 9 instances.
- 10 Q. And would have been working with you and
- 11 any other city staff to identify what issues
- 12 were of interest or to be discussed at the -- at
- 13 that particular retreat?
- 14 A. Yes. And not always specific issues,
- 15 but themes that were coming out of it, like we
- 16 need to talk about council/staff relations, or
- 17 we need to talk about, you know, sustainability,
- 18 or what are the topics that we need to focus on.
- 19 Q. And would that written agenda be shared
- 20 with the meeting participants before the
- 21 retreat?
- 22 A. I think so, but I can't specifically
- 23 recall.
- Q. Would it have been -- would it be posted

- 1 publicly anywhere?
- 2 A. I don't believe so.
- 3 Q. And then where were these retreats
- 4 typically held? Is there like one spot each
- 5 year?
- 6 A. No. Often -- often the WEC. We've held
- 7 them at different places over the years. Always
- 8 in the City of Worthington.
- 9 Q. Okay.
- 10 A. Yeah. We've held them at the community
- 11 center. We've held them at the educational
- 12 center. We've held at least one at Linworth
- 13 Experiential School, and one at the Griswold
- 14 Senior Center. So different places, but always
- in a public facility and an accessible facility.
- 16 Always properly advertised and meeting the
- 17 requirements of Ohio law for public meetings.
- 18 Q. Now, with respect to the 2018 retreat,
- 19 based on Management Partners' summary in Exhibit
- 20 27, the UMCH site was discussed at that retreat.
- 21 Do you see that at the bottom of page 3?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. I know you just skimmed Exhibit 27. I'm
- 24 going to give you a chance here to read a

- 1 portion here that concerns the UMCH site,
- 2 please.
- 3 A. Okay. I've read it.
- 4 Q. Now that you've read that, do you recall
- 5 this particular retreat?
- 6 A. I recall the retreat. I can't recall
- 7 the specific discussion that led to these -- the
- 8 detailed specifics of what led to these bullets
- 9 being placed on this page, page 3 here.
- 10 O. Sure. And there's a -- the bullets
- 11 you're referencing indicate that they are the
- desired uses for this site. Do you see that?
- 13 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection. That's not
- 14 what it says. It says, what are the desired
- 15 uses for the site?
- 16 MR. INGRAM: And then the bullets list
- 17 it.
- 18 MR. SCHUMACHER: Please don't misquote
- 19 the document.
- MR. INGRAM: I wasn't quoting it,
- 21 counsel.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: It sounded like you
- 23 were. That's my objection.
- 24 What's the question, Rhonda?

- 1 (Record read as requested.)
- 2 MR. SCHUMACHER: Same objection.
- A. Yeah. So I'm not sure what the question
- 4 is. This isn't a policy document. It's a
- 5 reflection of the conversation that occurred,
- 6 and so it's not law, it's not engrained in
- 7 plans. It's a reflection of the conversation
- 8 that occurred and a summary of that related to
- 9 the children's home site.
- 10 Q. Okay. Well, as set forth in Exhibit 27,
- on page 3 of the memorandum, the summary of the
- 12 conversation at that annual retreat, this
- document says that, what are the desired uses
- 14 for the site? Attract commercial/mixed-use
- 15 along High Street, develop park amenity/green
- 16 space and tree buffer, protect the Tucker Creek
- 17 area, and then prepare the density analyses
- 18 scenarios.
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. So with respect to the discussion at
- 21 City Council's retreat concerning the desired
- 22 uses for this site, were these the city
- 23 councilmembers' desired uses? In other words --
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection. Were you

- 1 finished? I'm sorry. Had you finished the
- 2 question?
- 3 Q. Who was -- whose input is this
- 4 summarizing?
- 5 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection. Compound
- 6 question. I assume you wanted him to answer the
- 7 last question?
- 8 A. You want to know whose input this is
- 9 capturing, right?
- 10 Q. Correct.
- 11 A. I think this is capturing the dialogue
- 12 at the meeting and the discussion. In fact, it
- 13 says, for each topic, discussion points have
- 14 been captured and that, you know, these were
- 15 the -- you know, the things of what I would call
- 16 major points of consideration.
- 17 Q. Okay. And the portion where you just
- 18 referenced the input or discussion that was
- 19 captured was from the workshop involving city
- 20 councilmembers along with the city manager and
- 21 the leadership team? Is that what you're
- 22 referring to?
- 23 A. Again, I don't know -- I don't recall
- 24 who was specifically in the room beyond the

- 1 council and myself at the time. But yeah, that
- 2 would -- there would have been a discussion.
- 3 Whether it reflected consensus or not, I don't
- 4 remember.
- 5 O. As far as what was summarized here in
- 6 this memorandum, I'm just trying to understand,
- 7 is it summarizing City Council's views, is it
- 8 summarizing your views, the city leadership
- 9 teams, or was it the combination of all three?
- 10 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection.
- 11 A. I think it summarizes the discussion and
- 12 what is important to work on and acknowledges
- 13 that these are the key aspects of the issue with
- 14 the United Methodist Children's Home site. You
- 15 articulated correctly, I think, the people that
- 16 were in leadership, to some extent, me and
- 17 others, council. I don't remember what
- 18 directors. And whether it -- when you say
- 19 reflects our views, I can't at this juncture
- 20 remember whether this -- this accurately
- 21 captures the views of everybody that was in that
- 22 room. I know that we use these as documents to
- 23 kind of guide work, not necessarily -- they
- 24 don't necessarily decide issues or cement

- 1 permanently the position of the city, if that
- 2 makes any sense.
- 3 Q. Okay. And so when you received this
- 4 memorandum, did you identify any inaccuracies in
- 5 the summary that was provided; in other words,
- 6 to the extent the discussion concerning the UMCH
- 7 site was inaccurate, did you contact Management
- 8 Partners and tell them to fix it?
- 9 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection.
- 10 A. If this is the final document, then I --
- 11 then I didn't. I'm not -- I'm not aware that I
- 12 did.
- 13 Q. Are you aware of any revisions or
- 14 additional drafts of this document?
- 15 A. I don't recall. I don't remember other
- 16 drafts or whether I suggested modifications to
- 17 it based on, you know, my -- you know, my
- 18 hearing a different -- a different thing at the
- 19 meeting, or they misunderstood the issue that
- 20 was being discussed. I generally wanted to
- 21 always make sure that it accurately reflected
- 22 the conversation and, you know, that they
- 23 understood the issue being discussed.
- Q. If there were other drafts or revisions

- 1 to this document, would you expect those to be
- 2 in writing?
- 3 A. I would expect them to be probably in
- 4 emails transmitted to the city manager's office
- 5 in some form or fashion.
- 6 Q. So we would have those if they existed?
- 7 A. You would.
- 8 Q. All right. Staying on that page,
- 9 there's a bullet point there for the UMCH site,
- 10 what is the potential for revenue generation?
- 11 What portion of the discussion is that
- 12 summarizing, as far as revenue generation? What
- 13 does that mean?
- 14 A. I would need to look at the timeline for
- 15 this whole issue. But there was concern at
- 16 different times. It could mean a bunch of
- 17 things. Let me talk a little bit about -- so
- 18 we're -- you know, it's important that there be
- 19 a balanced -- and I've used that term before --
- 20 set of uses on properties, any property, but
- 21 particularly large-scale properties of critical
- 22 importance in content sensitivity like UMCH so
- 23 that, you know, uses don't impact, you know --
- the uses are additive economically and otherwise

- 1 to the quality of life of the community. And
- 2 one of the things we were always concerned about
- 3 is job growth, office. You know, I think the
- 4 comprehensive plan as well as our record says
- 5 it's really important to -- this is an
- 6 opportunity to have jobs to produce income tax
- 7 revenue. And then anything else, park space,
- 8 housing, there had to be a balance of those
- 9 across the site. So it was economically
- 10 additive to our community.
- 11 We were also worried about the cost of
- 12 serving the -- any developments in the
- 13 community. And so, you know, we were starting
- 14 to wrestle with -- and I can't remember the
- 15 specific timelines and when it all occurred.
- 16 But during this process, we were starting to
- 17 wrestle with what might different scenarios cost
- 18 the city to serve, police, fire, water lines,
- 19 sewer maintenance, all of the various ways,
- 20 trash pickup. And so there's some potential
- 21 that we were talking not only about the economic
- 22 income tax generation, but also thinking about
- 23 how that revenue generation offset the impacts
- 24 of service.

- 1 O. Okay. And with respect to these
- 2 scenarios that you're referring to, there's also
- 3 listed here the prepared density analyses
- 4 scenarios. Is that what you were referring to,
- 5 or you're referring to something different?
- 6 A. I don't know what we were specifically
- 7 referring to in this bullet. I don't recall.
- 8 Q. Okay. Did you or are you aware of any
- 9 density analysis performed concerning the UMCH
- 10 site after this annual retreat?
- 11 A. Again, I don't recall the timing of all
- 12 of these things, which came first and second.
- 13 But we did a detailed cost-to-serve analysis of
- 14 various development scenarios, and you probably
- 15 have that.
- 16 Q. I'm sorry, what did you call that again?
- 17 A. We did a detailed cost-to-serve
- 18 analysis, which contemplated different
- 19 development scenarios or -- and what the
- 20 corresponding costs associated with providing
- 21 public -- what the potential revenue generation
- 22 was as well as the cost to serve, deliver city
- 23 services.
- 24 Again, we need -- you know, when -- good

- 1 city managers and financial people and planners
- 2 and city governments want to make sure that
- 3 we're -- that we have balance and that we -- and
- 4 this particular site so critically important, we
- 5 needed to have a sufficient revenue-producing
- 6 development to offset the cost to serve any
- 7 other type of development that might not be
- 8 revenue producing and demand services.
- 9 And so housing, for instance, in Ohio,
- 10 because of our tax structure, demands services.
- 11 The required trash pickup, city pays all of
- 12 that. Some kinds of housing do. Waterline
- 13 extensions, you know, street maintenance, all of
- 14 those kind of things, most forms of housing
- 15 demand have a cost. They don't add to the -- in
- 16 the positive way to the revenue stream. Office,
- 17 industrial, commercial tends to add to the
- 18 revenue stream creating dollars the city can use
- 19 to provide services and amenities.
- 20 So we were starting to think through
- 21 those use scenarios on that site, wrote a
- 22 cost-to-serve analysis, playing the staff's role
- 23 of informing public dialogue. Again, not trying
- 24 to direct a particular outcome, not trying to

- 1 drive towards, as a staff, you know, some --
- 2 some desired policy outcome, but trying to
- 3 inform what had become a very fractious
- 4 community conversation about a critical
- 5 property.
- 6 Q. Okay. With respect to the analysis that
- 7 was performed, are you testifying that the city
- 8 had performed a cost-to-serve analysis for all
- 9 residential housing on the UMCH site?
- 10 A. I'm not --
- 11 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection.
- 12 A. Clarify that for me.
- 13 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. I interrupted
- 14 you.
- 15 MR. SCHUMACHER: That's all right. I'm
- 16 going to get a document.
- 17 BY MR. INGRAM:
- 18 O. You mentioned that most residential uses
- 19 are -- tend to cost more than the revenue that's
- 20 generated.
- 21 A. Yeah, as a general rule of thumb.
- Q. But that's not -- so your testimony --
- 23 or your last response is based on a general rule
- of thumb, not on any particular analysis?

- 1 A. I think you can look at analyses that
- 2 have been done by other communities that are
- 3 like Worthington where they hired companies that
- 4 do these significant detailed analyses, and
- 5 those reports would show you that those
- 6 communities, similar to Worthington, that
- 7 housing -- because Ohio municipalities are
- 8 dependent on income taxes -- and income taxes,
- 9 until the work from home era and still, are
- 10 largely derived from offices, manufacturing
- 11 sites, and other commercial activity, that that
- 12 land use is what supports the city's budget and
- 13 ability to provide services and amenities and
- 14 quality of life to its residents. And
- 15 therefore, you know, we were seeking generally
- 16 to strike a balance in the community and on this
- 17 site between things that demanded -- potentially
- 18 demanded services versus revenue-producing
- 19 activity.
- Q. So my question is a little different.
- 21 A. I'm sorry.
- Q. That's okay. I'm just trying to
- 23 understand, the explanation you just provided,
- 24 was this explanation based on any specific

- 1 analysis that the city performed, or are you
- 2 responding based on the generalizations or rules
- 3 of thumb from your experience?
- 4 A. Both. I'm responding -- probably my
- 5 long-winded last answer, humbly, was based on my
- 6 general rule of thumb and my reading of similar
- 7 studies that have been done for other
- 8 communities regarding which land uses generate,
- 9 you know, what impacts they generate.
- 10 We also performed a cost-to-serve
- 11 analysis using some number of scenarios for
- 12 UMCH. And I can't quote that one specifically,
- 13 but I know we did it based on several scenarios
- 14 for that property's development.
- 15 Q. Okay. And with respect to the UMCH
- 16 site, did the city ever perform an analysis of
- 17 any density of apartments or multifamily --
- 18 multifamily units on that site?
- 19 A. I think the cost-to-serve analysis that
- 20 was conducted by the city includes at least one
- 21 scenario that has residential density comparable
- 22 to Lifestyle's 2015 proposal, or concept plan
- 23 they presented in the community or at the WEC.
- 24 And you can look at the cost-to-serve analysis

- 1 to verify that and further clarify it; but...
- Q. Were there any -- and you're getting to
- 3 my next question. I'm trying to understand,
- 4 were there any other analyses beyond this
- 5 cost-to-serve analysis that you're discussing?
- 6 A. Not that I specifically recall. And if
- 7 there were, that were done by the city, it would
- 8 have been, you know, internal back of napkin,
- 9 you know, kind of local government nerds
- 10 imagining different things.
- 11 We did not commission, that I remember,
- 12 or conduct any more extensive evaluation
- 13 directed by the council or by me.
- 14 Q. Okay.
- 15 A. I'm aware there's some other scenarios
- 16 that members of the community conducted that we
- 17 didn't participate in, although some of our
- 18 information may have been used.
- 19 Q. Okay. And what are you referring to
- there, from the members of the community aspect?
- 21 A. Well, at some point there was a group,
- 22 Project Community Park, that produced a document
- 23 that, from their perspective, evaluated a park
- 24 acquisition and development scenario on that

- 1 site. I did not, nor did any of my staff,
- 2 participate in that. Although I think they
- 3 attempted to rely on information that we had
- 4 previously provided to the public.
- 5 Q. And do you recall any other scenarios
- from the community? I'm sorry, analyses.
- 7 A. There is a lot of records over the time,
- 8 over what -- what is this going on, since --
- 9 since 2007 for me almost. There may be some,
- 10 but I just can't specifically recall.
- 11 Q. All right. Just briefly, I wanted to
- 12 ask you about appendix 3 to Exhibit 27, council
- 13 expectations.
- 14 A. Sure.
- 15 Q. You referred to these a few moments ago.
- 16 Were these council expectations? What are they?
- 17 Were they adopted by council?
- 18 A. Yeah. I think they were adopted by
- 19 council. Accepted by council might be the
- 20 better word. And that would be in the record at
- 21 some point if they voted on them. But they were
- 22 an effort to try to set a -- they're not rules.
- 23 In other words, they're not -- but they're kind
- of aspirations for how we were going to work

- 1 together.
- 2 Q. Okay.
- 3 A. And something to refer to to guide our
- 4 own behaviors as we interact in what sometimes
- 5 can be a difficult environment reconciling
- 6 different opinions about the future of a great
- 7 community.
- 8 Q. And these expectations, I can see here,
- 9 have been around since 2008, it looks like, at
- 10 least?
- 11 A. Yeah. Periodically modified and looked
- 12 at every time we had a retreat.
- 13 Q. What rules govern City Council meetings?
- 14 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection.
- 15 You can answer.
- 16 A. The charter, the codified ordinances,
- 17 and the council had some adopted rules of
- 18 procedure, if you will. I don't remember what
- 19 we called them. And Ohio law, of course.
- MR. INGRAM: Mr. Greeson, that's all the
- 21 questions I have for that document.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Oh. I thought you put
- 23 a period there.
- MR. INGRAM: It's about 12:25. I don't

- 1 know if you're hungry, if you want to break for
- 2 lunch, or you want to keep going. It's
- 3 completely up to you.
- 4 THE WITNESS: Well, how long are we
- 5 going?
- 6 MR. INGRAM: We're going to go the full
- 7 day today. I know I talked to your counsel --
- 8 or to Mr. Schumacher yesterday and indicated
- 9 that we probably would go until 5:00 today.
- THE WITNESS: Okay.
- MR. INGRAM: I can continue forward, or
- 12 we can take a break. Is there anything you have
- today that prevents you from staying till 5:00?
- 14 THE WITNESS: No, nothing prevents me
- 15 from staying till 5:00. And if we're going to
- 16 do that, then I think a break is in order
- 17 because I may need some sustenance.
- 18 MR. INGRAM: Yes. Let's take a break
- 19 for lunch.
- -=0=-
- Thereupon, the luncheon recess was taken
- 22 at 12:26 p.m.
- -=0=-
- 24

	October 06, 2023
1	OCTOBER 6, 2023
2	FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION
3	1:20 P.M.
4	-=0=-
5	BY MR. INGRAM:
6	Q. Mr. Greeson, we're back on the record
7	after lunch.
8	I wanted to ask you, earlier we had
9	talked about any efforts by the city to acquire
10	or purchase a portion of the UMCH property, and
11	we were talking about that in the time frame
12	around 2015. Do you recall that?
13	A. I recall our conversation this morning,
14	yes.
15	Q. Now, later, more recently, are you aware
16	of any efforts or discussions of the city
17	considering purchasing any portion of the UMCH
18	property? And for a time frame, I'm thinking
19	from 2018 to 2022.
20	A. Before I left?
21	Q. Correct.
22	A. 2018 to 2022. I think there was I'm
23	having a difficult time remembering
24	specifically.

- 1 MR. SCHUMACHER: Chris, I assume you're
- 2 talking about other than any negotiations
- 3 between the parties --
- 4 MR. INGRAM: Of course.
- 5 MR. SCHUMACHER: -- in the litigation.
- 6 MR. INGRAM: Yes.
- 7 MR. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.
- 8 A. I didn't -- I didn't engage in any
- 9 dialogue with Lifestyle regarding acquisition,
- 10 nor did we hire anybody to initiate acquisition,
- 11 nor do I believe there was any consensus of
- 12 council to aggressively pursue or actively
- 13 pursue acquisition. I know there were some
- 14 outreach to Lifestyle sometime in early 2022 by
- 15 Mr. Robinson, that I'm aware of, but I don't
- 16 recall any specific details of that.
- 17 Q. Okay. What are you aware of as far as
- 18 the instance of Mr. Robinson reaching out to
- 19 Lifestyle in 2022?
- 20 A. I was aware of it. I was aware he
- 21 reached out to Bo Brownlee. I just don't
- 22 remember the details of it. I've had a lot of
- 23 transition in my life since then.
- Q. Were you a party to the conversation

- 1 that you're referring to between Mr. Robinson
- 2 and Mr. Brownlee?
- 3 A. I wasn't a party to any direct
- 4 conversations between the two of them that I can
- 5 remember, and -- but I would have probably
- 6 talked to Mr. Robinson afterwards or beforehand,
- 7 but I don't have -- I don't have a recollection
- 8 of the details of -- my family moved jobs, moved
- 9 a lot.
- 10 Q. Sure. With respect to purchase or
- 11 acquisition of Lifestyle's property or the UMCH
- 12 property during the time frame -- during this
- time frame now, were you asked to perform any
- 14 analyses or, I guess, for lack of a better term,
- 15 due diligence before one would reach out to the
- 16 landowner?
- 17 MR. SCHUMACHER: Excuse me. I'm sorry.
- 18 What time frame?
- 19 MR. INGRAM: 2018 to '22.
- 20 MR. SCHUMACHER: 2018 to '22?
- 21 MR. INGRAM: Yeah. That's the time
- 22 frame these questions pertain to.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.
- 24 A. So I don't remember what the -- when the

- 1 cost-to-serve analysis was, but that was not due
- 2 diligence related to acquisition. That was
- 3 evaluating, informing the public dialogue. It
- 4 was a public document. It was informing the
- 5 range of options that would be available to the
- 6 city in terms of just good planning kind of
- 7 exercise. I don't think so. I don't have a
- 8 memory in that particular time period of any,
- 9 you know, intense analysis regarding
- 10 acquisition. Nor do I think we had a lot of
- 11 clarity, any clarity, that we would pursue
- 12 acquisition. So anything -- we may have, like,
- 13 what I would call back of napkin, you know, hey,
- 14 let's run some numbers, you know, kind of
- 15 curiosity type of things, we may have done as
- 16 staff. I don't remember specifically.
- 17 But we didn't launch a diligent effort
- 18 to -- based on specific policy direction, to try
- 19 to acquire the property. I mean, you know,
- 20 that's -- you know, I could give you examples of
- 21 where we did do that, and we didn't do the kind
- 22 of work that -- you know, appraisals and talking
- 23 to the owner and hiring real estate advisors and
- 24 all of that kind of work. I was wrestling with

- 1 this because I was trying to remember if there
- 2 was any kind of staff back of the napkin kind of
- 3 imagining things kind of effort. So I'm having
- 4 a hard time recalling it.
- 5 Q. Okay. You mentioned that you or staff
- 6 weren't given any clarity. So were there
- 7 discussions by individual members of council
- 8 regarding the potential purchase or acquisition
- 9 of any portion of the UMCH during this time
- 10 frame?
- 11 A. I can't speak to the specific time
- 12 frame, but at different junctures over the
- 13 course of time -- and I can't speak to exactly
- 14 when -- basically when I thought the property
- 15 might be in play or, you know, where the
- 16 strategic -- you know, when something was
- 17 happening, I raised with council in executive
- 18 session, you know, things look like they're
- 19 changing over there. Is there any interest in
- 20 us doing anything? And there's never any
- 21 consensus. You know, there was no city-adopted
- 22 strategy around acquisition over there.
- Q. So did you feel like you were being told
- 24 to do different things, if there's no consensus?

- 1 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection.
- Q. I'm trying to understand what you're
- 3 saying.
- 4 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection. Asked and
- 5 answered. Do you want him to tell you again?
- 6 A. Can you repeat, please?
- 7 (Record read as requested.)
- 8 A. No lack of -- lack of -- so, you know,
- 9 city manager takes his or her direction from the
- 10 council majority, and so what we look for is the
- 11 majority of council saying we want to move in a
- 12 particular way. And so when you don't have
- 13 that, you don't move forward. Or you play the
- 14 inform, facilitate, provide information, do
- 15 research kind of role so that you can help the
- 16 council make informed policy decisions, but you
- 17 don't move forward.
- 18 So during the course of this, while
- 19 there may have been individual members that
- thought we should acquire or that we should do
- 21 different things, there was no time in which I
- 22 was -- majority of council directed me to pursue
- 23 a strategy that involved that.
- 24 Q. So during this --

- 1 A. You know, a serious robust effort.
- Q. Okay. So during this 2018-2022 time
- 3 frame, were there individual members of City
- 4 Council who were interested in the city seeking
- 5 to acquire or purchase a portion of the UMCH
- 6 site?
- 7 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection. Relevance.
- 8 Go ahead. You can answer.
- 9 A. Yes. And I think those are a matter of
- 10 public record, because I don't think anybody
- 11 shared with me any insights that they didn't
- 12 also voice publicly. Mr. Robinson would have
- been the best example of one who thought that
- 14 that was a strategic direction that we should
- 15 consider and felt very strongly that our
- 16 comprehensive plan was not the right -- didn't
- 17 reflect the right strategic direction. And
- 18 there was obviously a lot of people in the
- 19 community that had strong feelings about the
- 20 uses that were outlined in the -- in the plan.
- 21 But, you know, he and probably Mr. Smith -- you
- 22 know, I can't remember all the election cycles.
- 23 But yeah, there were some councilmembers that,
- 24 you know, talked about that, both publicly

- 1 and --
- Q. How about privately?
- 3 A. Privately, but I can't remember a
- 4 specific conversation. I mean, I can't go back
- 5 and say that they thought that that would be a
- 6 good strategic direction, but it never reflected
- 7 a majority of the council, you know, that we
- 8 acted upon --
- 9 Q. So you --
- 10 A. -- that I recall.
- 11 Q. Okay. So you've identified Councilman
- 12 Robinson and Councilman Smith. Any other
- 13 councilmembers you recall at this time?
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Are we still talking
- 15 about 2018 to '22?
- 16 MR. INGRAM: Yes.
- 17 A. I'm trying to think who was on council.
- 18 Councilmember Bucher was on during that time. I
- 19 don't feel comfortable speaking to the totality
- 20 of his position on this issue. I didn't have a
- 21 ton of conversations with him about it.
- 22 Q. Okay.
- 23 A. And I'm not going to characterize their
- 24 positions because certainly this was a -- this

- 1 is an issue that evolved over a long period of
- 2 time with a lot of public input and a lot of --
- 3 a lot of, you know, emotional and intense public
- 4 engagement. And I think they should reflect
- 5 their policy thoughts on it, not me. Bottom
- 6 line is I don't have a specific memory, unless
- 7 you jog my memory with some document --
- 8 Q. Okay.
- 9 A. -- about --
- 10 MR. SCHUMACHER: Don't encourage him.
- 11 THE WITNESS: I know.
- 12 Q. Mr. Greeson, as the city manager, you
- 13 had lots of public and private interactions with
- 14 members of City Council. What about
- 15 Ms. Kowalczyk?
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection. Compound.
- 17 Which question?
- 18 A. I did have interaction with
- 19 Ms. Kowalczyk. I don't have a specific memory
- 20 of a specific interaction with her.
- Q. Concerning the acquisition of the UMCH
- 22 site?
- A. Not specific. Doesn't mean I didn't
- 24 have them.

- 1 O. You don't recall one way or the other,
- 2 in other words?
- 3 A. Yeah.
- 4 THE WITNESS: He's doing it.
- 5 MR. SCHUMACHER: Told you not to
- 6 encourage him.
- 7 THE WITNESS: Yeah.
- 8 -=0=-
- 9 (Deposition Exhibit 28 marked.)
- 10 -=0=-
- 11 BY MR. INGRAM:
- 12 Q. Handing you what's been marked as
- 13 Exhibit 28, Mr. Greeson.
- 14 Mr. Greeson, Exhibit 28 --
- 15 A. Bear with me one second here.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: He's still reading.
- 17 A. Okay.
- 18 Q. Now that you've had an opportunity to
- 19 review this email, Exhibit 28 is an email from
- 20 you to Councilperson Kowalczyk,
- 21 K-O-W-A-L-C-Z-Y-K, dated February 28, 2018. And
- 22 is Bates stamped Worthington 58435 through
- 23 58463. Do you see that?
- 24 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Is this an email that you sent
- 2 Councilperson Kowalczyk? Do you recognize this
- 3 email?
- 4 A. I don't recall it, but I recognize it as
- 5 an email I wrote. Certainly reflects that.
- 6 Q. And Exhibit 28, based on your email
- 7 here, concerns follow-up to a conversation you
- 8 had with Ms. Kowalczyk related to the UMCH
- 9 property; is that fair?
- 10 A. Yes, it certainly reflects that.
- 11 Q. And you provided her with what you said
- 12 were helpful documents as attachments to this
- 13 email; is that fair?
- 14 A. Yes. Looks like she might have been
- 15 preparing for something. And I provided
- 16 information -- obviously, I told her that we had
- 17 a ton of information available, but looks like I
- 18 provided her four things that I thought she
- 19 would benefit from reading.
- Q. I want to direct your attention to the
- 21 last paragraph of your email here on Exhibit 28
- 22 where you say, these are some thoughts on the
- fund balance, which is the question you raised.
- 24 As far as strategies for ensuring green space,

- 1 there is a simple overview of three approaches
- 2 to this in the attached draft framework
- 3 document.
- 4 Do you see that?
- 5 A. Yes, I do see that.
- 6 Q. Do you recall now the discussion you had
- 7 with Councilperson Kowalczyk?
- 8 A. I still don't recall it.
- 9 Q. Okay. And if you could turn to the
- 10 draft framework document you're referencing.
- 11 Where are the three approaches you're referring
- 12 her to in that framework document?
- 13 A. I wrote the framework document; however,
- 14 I would have to re-read it to answer your
- 15 question.
- 16 Q. All right.
- 17 A. Because it appears I wrote it in 2016.
- 18 Q. Okay. Fair enough. How about this,
- 19 let's start with -- so you drafted the framework
- 20 document?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. Starting at Bates page number
- 23 58457 of Exhibit 28. Did anyone assist you in
- 24 drafting this framework document?

- 1 A. I don't recall specifically. It would
- 2 be a normal practice of mine to have some other
- 3 staff review my, you know, work, just to make
- 4 sure it makes sense, but I don't have a memory
- 5 of who might have done that or whether they did
- 6 it or not.
- 7 Q. Okay.
- 8 A. Whether that was done, I should say,
- 9 with better grammar.
- 10 Q. Well, the fact that this document was
- 11 created in 2016, but you're attaching it to a
- 12 2018 email, would this be likely the last
- 13 version of -- or last draft, I should say, as
- 14 of -- you know, for that document?
- 15 A. I don't know the answer to that. I
- 16 remember working on it. I don't believe I
- 17 picked it up after I completed it --
- 18 Q. Okay.
- 19 A. -- and re-did it some years later. It
- 20 kind of rested.
- Q. Did anyone ask you to prepare this
- 22 framework for moving forward?
- 23 A. Yeah. So this -- again, I talked
- 24 earlier -- I talked earlier about the manager's

- 1 role in informing and facilitating, providing
- 2 information and framing policy options for not
- 3 only the council but the community. This
- 4 document came out of dialogue with community
- 5 groups and council leadership where we were
- 6 getting a lot of questions. And so we were
- 7 being asked questions about, you know, city
- 8 finances and our fiscal capacity to do things,
- 9 always recurring conversation in Worthington,
- 10 and about, you know, what the strategic paths --
- 11 what might be different strategic paths for
- 12 UMCH. And this -- in fact, I think you asked me
- 13 some questions about some of the meetings that
- 14 we held with community groups earlier in the
- 15 day. This came out of that dialogue and was an
- 16 attempt by me to kind of inform the discussion
- 17 that people were having. It was not -- it was
- 18 not aimed at trying to drive a particular
- 19 outcome, but to help educate people on how
- 20 cities might approach different things,
- 21 different options, and some of the
- 22 considerations of each of those options.
- Q. Okay. When you were preparing or
- 24 creating this framework, did you consult with

- 1 UMCH about it?
- 2 A. I don't think I did. No, I don't
- 3 believe I did.
- 4 Q. And when you were preparing this
- 5 framework, did you consult with Lifestyles about
- 6 it?
- 7 A. No. I believe I consulted myself. But
- 8 I certainly viewed this as a public document,
- 9 not as something that was aimed at anything but
- 10 informing my council and the public dialogue.
- 11 And in 2016, and probably all the way to 2018
- 12 and beyond, you know, Lifestyles had no
- 13 significant proposal. The last time we had
- 14 heard from them on any large scale proposal was
- 15 in -- I believe that was 2015. And so the
- 16 community was left -- other than the OhioHealth
- 17 and the smaller subdivision question, the
- 18 community was left to wonder what was going to
- 19 be the future of the larger UMCH property, and
- 20 certainly policy dialogue about that is
- 21 appropriate.
- Q. Okay. But in connection with, in 2016,
- 23 determining what was to become of the property,
- 24 you didn't consult either UMCH or Lifestyles?

- 1 A. Repeat the question again.
- 2 MR. INGRAM: Read it back, please.
- 3 (Record read as requested.)
- 4 A. Well, first of all, I wasn't determining
- 5 what was happening with the property.
- 6 Q. My question is a little different.
- 7 MR. SCHUMACHER: Let him finish his
- 8 answer.
- 9 A. Well, I actually want to hear the
- 10 question again, then, because --
- 11 Q. Well, you just previously said that the
- 12 community was wondering what was going on with
- 13 the property?
- 14 A. Right.
- 15 Q. In other words, what they're going to do
- 16 with it, they being either Lifestyle or UMCH,
- 17 right?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. And so you're preparing this framework
- in response or in connection with the community
- 21 dialogue that you just described, right?
- 22 A. Right.
- Q. But you never consulted with or talked
- 24 to either UMCH or Lifestyles about what they

- intended to do with the property?A. I don't recall consulting them
- 3 specifically about drafting this. In reviewing
- 4 it, I clearly had some knowledge about what they
- 5 were doing, because I reflect that in the
- 6 paragraph, and there's a discussion about
- 7 OhioHealth in here. So I may have had some
- 8 knowledge of what they were doing that I
- 9 reflected and shared, and I did that in the
- 10 background section, but I didn't -- I didn't --
- 11 I didn't engage them in writing what I thought
- 12 were options available to the city. I
- 13 imagine -- I'd have to review all that, but I
- 14 suspect that I caveated everything in here, and
- 15 nor would I normally. I wouldn't normally
- 16 consult a developer to outline what all our
- 17 policy options are as a city.
- 18 Q. Okay.
- -=0=-
- 20 (Deposition Exhibit 29 marked.)
- -=0=-
- 22 BY MR. INGRAM:
- Q. I'm going to hand you what's been marked
- 24 as Exhibit 29. Exhibit 29 is an email from you

- 1 to Councilmembers Michael and Myers, dated March
- 2 19, 2018, and it's Bates numbered Worthington
- 3 57946 through 57948. Do you see that,
- 4 Mr. Greeson?
- 5 A. I do.
- 6 Q. And the subject of your email on Exhibit
- 7 29 is, retreat follow-up: UMCH info. Do you
- 8 recognize that?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And you were forwarding an email chain
- 11 between you and newly elected Councilmember
- 12 Robinson, correct?
- 13 A. That appears to be the case, yes.
- Q. So if we turn to Mr. Robinson's email to
- 15 you, dated February 19, 2018, in which he CC'd
- 16 other members of council, it appears that
- 17 Mr. Robinson had requested an analysis from you;
- 18 is that fair?
- 19 A. Yes. In reading this, that appears to
- 20 be the case.
- Q. Do you recall this circumstance?
- 22 A. I don't recall this specific email and
- 23 my forwarding of it. Again, that's now five
- 24 years ago, if I have my timing right. However,

- 1 the output that I talked about earlier, the cost
- 2 to serve, that's the output of this
- 3 conversation.
- 4 Q. Okay.
- 5 A. So, you know, you focused on the treat
- 6 notes earlier today, and there had been dialogue
- 7 occurring about what are the -- what's the true
- 8 cost and what are the different public impacts
- 9 of different development scenarios at the site.
- 10 And so I was wrestling with whether -- I'll be
- 11 honest with you, that's good government work to
- 12 analyze potential development outcomes and the
- impact on fiscal health and, you know, traffic
- 14 and cost to serve. But we were wrestling with
- 15 whether the staff had time to do that work and
- 16 whether the council leadership or the majority
- 17 of council wanted us to provide that work.
- 18 I ultimately concluded that we needed to
- 19 do it, it would be beneficial for the overall
- 20 dialogue the community was having and that the
- 21 council was having, and we produced the
- 22 cost-to-serve analysis.
- Q. So this is Mr. Robinson following up
- 24 from that retreat that we discussed earlier?

- 1 A. Again, I don't recall the specific
- 2 emails and the sequencing of it all, but, you
- 3 know, we're clearly being asked to provide
- 4 information, and like good staff members we
- 5 produced a document that may not have answered
- 6 many of his specific questions, but we thought,
- 7 based on information that we could, you know,
- 8 readily obtain, that analyzed different
- 9 development scenarios and the costs to serve
- 10 them.
- 11 Q. Mr. Robinson followed up with you
- 12 exactly a month later, and you forwarded
- 13 Mr. Robinson's response only to Ms. Michael and
- 14 Mr. Myers. Why's that?
- 15 A. At the time I believe they were council
- 16 president and president pro tem, the leadership
- 17 of the council.
- 18 Q. Okay. And --
- 19 A. And I don't recall when we specifically
- 20 completed the cost to serve. It took a while.
- 21 And we did it as we could fit it into the staff
- 22 time available.
- Q. Okay. And what did you tell President
- 24 Michael or Pro Tem Myers?

- 1 A. I don't specifically remember the
- 2 conversation.
- 3 Q. Was anybody else party to that
- 4 conversation?
- 5 A. I don't know.
- 6 -=0=-
- 7 (Deposition Exhibit 30 marked.)
- 8 -=0=-
- 9 MR. SCHUMACHER: You brought a wheeled
- 10 cart, right? I can help you later, if it's too
- 11 much to carry.
- 12 Did you ever take a deposition in New
- 13 York City?
- 14 MR. INGRAM: Yes.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: The court reporters,
- 16 they won't carry the exhibits. And they stop at
- 17 5:00, because they got to get the train.
- 18 This is 30.
- 19 BY MR. INGRAM:
- Q. And for the record, Mr. Greeson, you've
- 21 been handed what's been marked Exhibit 30 --
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. -- which is an email from you to Martin
- 24 Jenkins --

- 1 A. Yes.
- Q. -- dated March 9, 2020, Bates numbered
- 3 Worthington 58301 through 58367. Do you see
- 4 that?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. Earlier I think you mentioned that
- 7 Martin Jenkins was one of the facilitators for
- 8 council annual retreats?
- 9 A. Yeah. He periodically did council
- 10 retreat facilitation. I'm not sure -- I can't
- 11 tell you every year he did one, but this would
- 12 have been -- yes.
- 13 Q. The subject of your email is UMCH
- 14 background staff. Is that background stuff?
- 15 A. Yeah, I'm not -- yes, it probably would
- 16 be stuff.
- 17 Q. There were reports that Dr. Herb
- 18 Marlowe --
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. -- prepared in 2018, early 2019. There
- 21 are drafts of those -- or a draft of the report,
- 22 and just at a very high level, what were those
- 23 reports?
- 24 A. Dr. Marlowe is a consultant from Florida

- 1 who is experienced in public dispute resolution,
- 2 visioning strategic planning, helping cities and
- 3 counties navigate challenging public processes
- 4 where there's discord and community controversy.
- 5 And I reached out to him to get some insight
- 6 from him on could there be some kind of public
- 7 process that we could employ that would help --
- 8 I want him to assess the very challenging
- 9 environment we were in with many different
- 10 opinions about the strategic direction of the
- 11 property, and, you know, recognizing that it
- 12 was, again, highly context sensitive, critical
- 13 to the future of our community, and had a lot of
- 14 strongly held beliefs in the community. I
- 15 wanted somebody that was objective to the
- 16 situation that was a skilled public process
- 17 architect, if you will, and facilitator to
- 18 assess the situation and identify whether he
- 19 thought there were any processes that could be
- 20 followed to help resolve the issues to the
- 21 benefit of the stakeholders involved. Well, to
- 22 resolve the situation in a productive fashion.
- 23 So that's the work we hired him to do, and
- you're seeing some of the by-product of that.

- 1 O. Okay. And when you're referencing this
- 2 situation, you're referring to the development
- 3 of the UMCH site?
- 4 A. Yes. And again, I'm in my city manager
- 5 role. I'm trying to facilitate. I'm, you know,
- 6 trying to shape strategic policy options to be
- 7 considered to move forward on a critically
- 8 important property.
- 9 Q. And ultimately -- well, it says that --
- 10 your email says that we chose to move forward
- 11 with a community visioning process that
- 12 Dr. Marlowe had recommended, fair?
- 13 A. My email does say that, I believe, yes.
- Q. Okay. What was Dr. Marlowe's community
- 15 visioning process? What did he recommend?
- 16 A. I would have to re-read this report,
- 17 which is -- you handed me, which is about a half
- 18 inch thick, in order to answer that question in
- 19 detail.
- 20 Q. And I'm not asking --
- 21 A. But essentially, we launched Vision
- 22 Worthington as a result of that, which was a
- 23 community visioning process that a different
- 24 consultant facilitated.

- 1 Q. So the Visioning Worthington process,
- 2 that's for the city at large, correct? That
- 3 doesn't pertain just to the UMCH site?
- 4 A. No, but I think -- no, it's not, but you
- 5 can't ignore that the UMCH property -- again, I
- 6 kept saying it's in the heart of the town, it's
- 7 right across from the City Hall, it's on High
- 8 Street, it's one of the largest undeveloped --
- 9 or developable properties, you know, very
- 10 important in their strongly held beliefs about
- 11 what the right strategic direction is for that
- 12 property. And while that process was for the
- 13 community at large, it certainly helps inform --
- 14 could help, to some degree, inform how the
- 15 community moves forward.
- 16 What Dr. Marlowe, I believe, was sensing
- 17 was that there were pretty different visions in
- 18 the community. There was a divide in the
- 19 community around what strategic direction we
- 20 were going to take. That tension, if you will,
- 21 exists throughout the community in terms of
- 22 growth and development of the city, and then it
- 23 also shows up related to this property because
- 24 it's so central to the community.

- 1 O. Okay. So the UMCH property is almost a
- 2 microcosm, if you will, of that issue; is that
- 3 fair?
- 4 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection.
- 5 A. I don't know if microcosm is the -- is
- 6 the right word. It is more acute, I think,
- 7 because the property is so important, right? So
- 8 it is, again, centrally located, across from
- 9 City Hall, it's got natural features, surrounded
- 10 by the neighborhood, yet on High Street, not too
- 11 far north of -- you know, kind of right between
- 12 our major centers at 270 and Old Worthington.
- 13 And so it is the most context sensitive and the
- 14 most strategic location, I think, in the city.
- 15 And it by itself is utterly important, but it's
- 16 also impacted by, you know, kind of a tension
- 17 that goes back to Worthington's creation of the
- 18 city between whether we're, you know,
- 19 maintaining the historic village character or we
- 20 become more like the Short North. I mean, that
- 21 kind of tension.
- 22 Q. Okay.
- 23 MR. SCHUMACHER: You said the Short
- 24 North?

- 1 THE WITNESS: Yeah. It's an area.
- 2 MR. INGRAM: It's down High Street,
- 3 counsel.
- 4 THE WITNESS: Yeah, more densely
- 5 developed.
- 6 BY MR. INGRAM:
- 7 Q. I want to direct your attention now to
- 8 the -- your memorandum that is attached and a
- 9 part of Exhibit 30. If the look in the lower
- 10 right-hand corner, it's towards the very back,
- 11 beginning at page 58364. To 64.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: 58364.
- 13 A. Yes.
- Q. And Mr. Greeson, attached to your -- you
- 15 attached a memorandum that you drafted dated
- 16 January 31st, 2020, the subject of your
- 17 memorandum was, responses to questions posed by
- 18 Councilmember Robinson regarding status of UMCH
- 19 comprehensive plan update. Do you see that?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. For purposes of the record, did you
- 22 draft this memorandum?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Did anyone help you?

- 1 A. I don't believe anybody helped me,
- 2 although I believe it was likely reviewed by the
- 3 law director.
- 4 Q. Okay. And is that your signature there
- 5 on the first page of your memorandum?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. The memo is directed to the members of
- 8 the City Council. With whom did you share this
- 9 memo, other than the law director and members of
- 10 the City Council?
- 11 A. I don't remember, but I imagine key
- 12 staff involved by Mr. Brown, probably
- 13 Ms. Steward, but I don't have a specific memory
- 14 of who received this. Let me see if there are
- 15 CCs on it. Or who helped -- you know, who
- 16 reviewed it before I sent it out. It may have
- 17 had more than just the law director's eyes on
- 18 it, just to make sure that I wrote coherently.
- 19 Q. And based on the subject of your
- 20 memorandum, was Councilmember Robinson, in 2020,
- 21 seeking to amend or revise the 2014
- 22 comprehensive plan amendment?
- 23 A. I don't recall. Obviously, in your --
- 24 you're well aware later -- I believe later --

- 1 you know, he wrote to the council regarding
- 2 amending the comprehensive plan. At this
- 3 juncture, I don't recall what I knew about his
- 4 intentions, nor would I characterize them. I
- 5 merely was trying to answer the questions and
- 6 provide the information that I thought would
- 7 inform the council's policy dialogue.
- 8 Q. And I want to direct your attention to
- 9 the second-to-last paragraph of your memorandum
- 10 on page 3. In looking at the second-to-last
- 11 paragraph, you write, council has in recent
- 12 years discouraged staff from proactively working
- 13 with LC (or Steiner).
- 14 Do you see that?
- 15 A. I'm sorry, what page or paragraph?
- 16 Q. Page 3, second-to-last paragraph.
- 17 A. Okay. I gotcha.
- 18 MR. SCHUMACHER: Maybe you better read
- 19 the whole thing, then.
- THE WITNESS: I will.
- Q. And directing you to the last sentence
- 22 of that paragraph where you wrote, council has
- 23 in recent years discouraged staff from
- 24 proactively working with LC (or Steiner).

- 1 Do you see that?
- A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Did I read that correctly?
- 4 A. You read the memo that's before me
- 5 correctly.
- Q. Okay. And LC, would that be Lifestyle?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And Steiner, is that Yaromir Steiner?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Who from council had discouraged staff
- 11 from proactively working with either Lifestyles
- 12 or Yaromir Steiner?
- 13 A. I don't know that I can specifically
- 14 say. I think we had a lack -- I think I
- 15 characterized earlier, a lot of community
- 16 discourse -- and let me make sure I'm thoroughly
- 17 answering -- I mean, appropriately answering
- 18 your questions. I don't -- I can't recall --
- 19 the reason I said I can't specifically say is I
- 20 can't recall the specific conversations I had
- 21 with each councilmember about these topics. So
- 22 it's difficult for me to say, oh, well, in X
- 23 year or Y date, you know, this councilmember
- 24 said this.

- 1 What I can say is that we had a lack of
- 2 consensus or a lack of clarity or agreement on,
- 3 you know, direction related to the property.
- 4 The community was, you know, fractious. I mean,
- 5 we had the charter amended. We had, you know,
- 6 this as a theme that ran through multiple
- 7 council elections. We had strongly held views
- 8 on council about different aspects of the
- 9 comprehensive plan and potential directions for
- 10 the community. And it was difficult to
- 11 navigate.
- 12 And I tried a number of things to inform
- 13 and facilitate dialogue. You mentioned them
- 14 earlier. We met with community members, we held
- 15 public meetings, or LC held the public meeting
- 16 in 2014 and got a vociferous response. I
- 17 brought Dr. Marlowe in. And none of that, from
- 18 my perspective, was successful, and I took
- 19 ownership in that in helping -- in yielding
- 20 clarity on the direction staff should take in
- 21 advancing particular goals around that property.
- 22 So this memo is likely me being
- 23 uncharacteristically frustrated or something
- 24 about where we were and outlining the options.

- 1 Once again, outlining the options that I thought
- 2 were available to the city.
- 3 Q. Okay. So an uncharacteristic statement.
- 4 But what I asked you was which councilmembers
- 5 had discouraged staff that you're referring to?
- 6 A. So I can't go back to specific
- 7 conversations and say this councilmember
- 8 discouraged us on this date. I can't remember
- 9 those. But I think, in general, we had a lack
- 10 of clarity, and by that lack of clarity, we were
- 11 discouraged from doing anything proactive
- 12 because we didn't have -- we didn't know what
- 13 the council would support.
- Q. And when you reference staff here, are
- 15 you referring to any particular staff members?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. To yourself?
- 18 A. I think I'm just talking generally about
- 19 staff and city employees as a whole.
- 20 Q. Okay.
- A. And myself. But again, I can't point to
- 22 a specific conversation or a group conversation
- 23 that I have in my memory that informed that
- 24 sentence.

- 1 O. Yet, in each one of the instances that
- 2 you referenced, whether it's Mr. Marlowe's
- 3 visioning process, whether it's the framework
- 4 that you prepared, you didn't consult UMCH or LC
- 5 proactively, did you?
- 6 A. This is -- go ahead.
- 7 MR. SCHUMACHER: I'm trying to
- 8 understand the question, but go ahead.
- 9 A. This is an important question. Can you
- 10 read it back to me, please?
- 11 (Record read as requested.)
- 12 A. Yes, in some instances.
- Q. Which instances?
- A. Let me -- I'll discuss that. So in the
- 15 framework document, it was my thinking about
- 16 what the options were. So I'm sharing with the
- 17 council and whoever wants to read it, you know,
- 18 what do I think of the options available. Like
- 19 I said, I don't think I consulted a lot of
- 20 people on that. I may have shared it internally
- 21 with staff.
- In the case of Dr. Marlowe's work, I
- 23 believe he met with the board of -- and I'd have
- 24 to refresh my memory on this. But I believe

- 1 UMCH was approached as part of that, and then I
- 2 met with Bo Brownlee on that and shared -- I
- 3 believe I shared with him one of the Dr. Marlowe
- 4 process drafts. Additionally, Yaromir Steiner
- 5 was involved at that point. He had had meetings
- 6 with councilmembers and staff. No concept
- 7 proposal from Yaromir was received ever. It was
- 8 more engagement but not specifics. When Yaromir
- 9 came forward, I remember -- I don't know why I
- 10 remember this and not other things, but I
- 11 remember we were -- you know, we were -- we
- 12 didn't really know the -- all the UMCH and
- 13 Lifestyle relationships, but we were careful to,
- 14 you know, make sure Lifestyle knew we were
- 15 engaging with OhioHealth or Yaromir when it was
- 16 the subject of that -- of the property over
- 17 here. So I did that. And I believe Dr. Marlowe
- 18 talked to Yaromir as well.
- 19 So I don't think you can characterize it
- 20 as we never interacted with -- with either LC or
- 21 their representatives or people who were
- 22 advancing things that LC had an interest in. I
- 23 think we did in that case.
- Q. Now, my question was about staff. And

- 1 you mentioned that you had conversations with
- 2 Mr. Brownlee?
- 3 A. I did.
- 4 Q. What conversations are you referring to?
- 5 A. I met with him once and talked
- 6 specifically about the Dr. Marlowe effort. I
- 7 believe I gave him a draft, one of these drafts
- 8 that you have reflected here, and, you know,
- 9 said we're -- you know, I'm attempting to
- 10 develop some kind of alternative dispute
- 11 resolution process.
- 12 Q. Did you have any other conversations
- 13 with Mr. Brownlee or anyone else from Lifestyles
- 14 regarding the development of the UMCH property,
- 15 you know, these proactive discussions, as you've
- 16 characterized it?
- 17 A. When?
- 18 Q. From leading up to January of 2020.
- 19 A. I don't recall that I did. I don't
- 20 specifically remember.
- 21 O. Your conversation with Bo Brownlee
- 22 concerning the --
- A. Again, we hadn't heard from them with
- 24 any substantive proposals from LC since 2015.

- 1 Most of the private interest, meaning -- came
- 2 from either OhioHealth, EMH&T in the one little
- 3 instance, or Yaromir. Lifestyle had seemed to
- 4 go roughly largely dark. And we weren't
- 5 proactively engaging them because we were having
- 6 a difficult time discerning our own interests.
- 7 Q. With respect to the conversation you had
- 8 with Mr. Brownlee regarding Mr. Marlowe's -- or
- 9 Harlowe's? Sorry.
- 10 A. Marlowe. It might be a typo. It's
- 11 Marlowe.
- 12 Q. Okay. Marlowe. With Mr. Marlowe's
- 13 visioning process, there are two attachments to
- 14 your email here in Exhibit 30. Did you share
- 15 either of these attachments with Mr. Brownlee?
- 16 A. I believe I shared information with him.
- 17 At what point in all this process I met with him
- 18 and what I specifically shared with him I don't
- 19 recall. I remember the goal of my meeting with
- 20 him and reaching out with him was to inform him
- 21 that we were -- that we were talking about this
- 22 and that, you know, we were having some
- 23 engagement with Yaromir about it, and that --
- 24 you know, that it was a sincere effort on my

- 1 part. I think what Dr. Marlowe found was that
- 2 it was a highly divided issue in our community.
- 3 Q. Okay. There were -- at page 5835 --
- 4 A. 35?
- 5 O. 35. Yes. It's a conclusions and
- 6 recommendations for a decision-making process
- 7 regarding the future use of the UMCH property.
- 8 It's a report prepared by Herbert Marlowe, dated
- 9 August 30th, 2018. It's marked draft.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Was this report ever finalized?
- 12 A. I don't think it ever had a draft taken
- off of it because I believe he approached it as
- 14 something that was -- you know, it's process
- 15 design. It's not -- based on the feedback to
- 16 the drafts, that it would evolve. And might
- 17 constantly evolve if we had moved forward with
- 18 some elements of this process. So no, I don't
- 19 believe the draft ever came off of it.
- Q. Did the city ever implement any of the
- 21 conclusions or recommendations from Mr. Marlowe?
- 22 A. I believe we -- well, we moved forward
- 23 with the visioning process.
- Q. Sorry. My question was inartful. I was

- 1 referring to this report starting on page 35.
- 2 Did the city implement any of the
- 3 recommendations out of this particular report
- 4 dated August 30, 2018?
- 5 A. I would need to re-read it to answer
- 6 that question. If you want me to read it, I
- 7 will.
- 8 Q. That's okay. If you don't recall,
- 9 that's fine.
- 10 So turning to page -- the second page of
- 11 Exhibit 30. There's another report submitted by
- 12 Analytica dated January 18, 2019.
- 13 A. What page is that?
- Q. It's the second page of the exhibit.
- 15 A. Okay. Analytica is Dr. Marlowe.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Maybe we should read
- 17 the whole document.
- 18 Q. So this is the second attachment to your
- 19 email.
- 20 A. Okay.
- Q. And the January 18, 2019, report is
- 22 titled the Proposed Process Architecture for
- 23 Community-wide Visioning Process for the City of
- Worthington, Ohio, and Proposed Process

- 1 Architecture for Development of Acquisition
- 2 Scenarios for UMCH property.
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. So there was two different reports, both
- 5 by Dr. Marlowe or his organization; is that
- 6 fair?
- 7 A. I would need to go through this and try
- 8 to differentiate what is what because what I
- 9 can't tell is whether you're handing me, you
- 10 know, drafts that he did or things that he did
- 11 as he's interviewing people to think about it,
- 12 that he shared with me, or whether you're
- 13 handing me a draft at one stage of his thinking
- 14 and then a final draft or like a -- the draft
- 15 that got presented to council. So just
- 16 off-the-cuff I can't distinguish the differences
- 17 here.
- 18 Q. Mr. Greeson, I'm not handing you
- 19 anything. These are attachments to your own
- 20 email.
- 21 A. Okay.
- Q. And I'm just trying to understand -- if
- 23 you turn to your email itself, I'm trying to
- 24 understand which attachment is which.

- 1 A. Well, then, you're going to have to give
- 2 me a little time.
- 3 Q. Sure.
- 4 A. I think my email answers your previous
- 5 questions. He left the documents as draft,
- 6 presumably to reserve the ability to modify them
- 7 in content and approach as the community
- 8 co-created a process. So he left it as draft.
- 9 I was correct in that.
- 10 And then my email outlines that in his
- 11 first report it's his assessment of the
- 12 situation and some potential process
- 13 recommendation, and then the -- and then a
- 14 refined version is the second document.
- 15 Q. Right. And so the question I have for
- 16 you is, when you're saying first or second, the
- 17 first one is later in time, and so I'm trying to
- 18 discern what you meant by first or second.
- 19 A. Yeah, I don't know why that's the case.
- 20 So the first one would be August 30th, 2018.
- 21 It's after he's interviewed people and he's
- 22 contemplating a, you know, process for
- 23 reconciling the debate he heard. And then the
- 24 second one, which is the one dated January 18th,

- 1 2019, he digs into -- it looks like more detail
- 2 on the actual scope of, you know, some of the
- 3 processes he contemplated earlier in the first
- 4 draft.
- 5 Q. Okay. Thank you.
- 6 Earlier you mentioned, Mr. Greeson, an
- 7 organization called Project Community Park. Do
- 8 you recall that?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And what is your understanding of what
- 11 Project Community Park was seeking with respect
- 12 to the UMCH property?
- 13 A. I think their records probably speak for
- 14 itself and that you probably have them, because
- 15 they're a matter of record and they have
- 16 websites and things like that, but essentially
- 17 that the city buy the land, that some large
- 18 portion of it be set aside and developed as a
- 19 park.
- Q. And Mr. Robinson -- Councilman Robinson
- 21 is a member of Project Community Park; is that
- 22 correct?
- 23 A. I don't know his -- so I don't know how
- 24 they're structured. I can only tell you who I

- 1 interacted with over time, and it's a community
- 2 organization. Who a member is -- I don't know
- 3 if they have members or they just have a group
- 4 of people that are working together that are
- 5 leading it. He has had some involvement with
- 6 members of -- or people who have participated in
- 7 Project Community Park. What all his roles
- 8 were, I don't know.
- 9 Q. Okay.
- -=0=-
- 11 (Deposition Exhibit 31 marked.)
- -=0=-
- 13 BY MR. INGRAM:
- Q. Mr. Greeson, you've been handed what's
- 15 been marked as Exhibit 31, which is a November
- 16 27, 2018, Summary of Phases for Development of
- 17 the UMCH Property on Adam F. Florey law firm
- 18 letterhead -- the Florey Todd Law Firm, I should
- 19 say, letterhead. Do you see that?
- 20 A. I do.
- Q. Are you familiar with Mr. Florey's
- 22 summary of phases for development of the UMCH
- 23 property?
- A. I remember it. I can't say I am

- 1 in-depth familiar with it at this point unless I
- 2 re-read it.
- Q. Okay. When is the first time you were
- 4 provided a copy of Exhibit 31?
- 5 A. That's a good question. I don't recall.
- 6 I don't believe I received it when it was
- 7 produced. Mr. Robinson provided it to me at
- 8 some juncture, and I am probably spending more
- 9 time with it now than I did then.
- 10 Q. So Mr. Robinson provided this to you?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Do you know who paid for this to be
- 13 created by Attorney Florey?
- 14 A. I know that the city did not -- the city
- 15 did not solicit this memo, nor it did pay for
- 16 it. And I don't know the answer to whether
- 17 anyone else solicited it and paid for it or
- 18 whether Mr. Florey proffered it on his own. I
- 19 don't know.
- Q. So you don't know who paid for this?
- 21 A. I don't even know if it was paid for. I
- 22 have no idea.
- Q. Do you know attorneys who put forth
- 24 memos for free?

- 1 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection.
- 2 Argumentative.
- 3 MR. SILK: Might have.
- 4 MR. SCHUMACHER: You don't need to
- 5 answer that question.
- 6 A. I don't know -- I don't know the genesis
- 7 of this. I don't know who asked for it. I
- 8 don't know if it was paid for. I was provided
- 9 it. I was not involved in asking for it.
- 10 Q. What were the circumstances that -- in
- 11 which Councilman Robinson provided this summary
- 12 from Attorney Florey to you?
- 13 A. I'm not sure. I don't recall a specific
- 14 circumstance. I don't recall specifically when.
- 15 And I can't remember that there was any, you
- 16 know, event that caused him to do that. I just
- 17 remember that he provided it, probably inform --
- 18 you know, to give me information.
- 19 Q. Did he provide you a hard copy? Did he
- 20 email it to you?
- 21 A. I believe it was a hard copy, and I
- 22 don't believe it ever left my desk until it was
- 23 provided to you. Well, maybe I gave it to the
- law director, but I don't remember doing

- 1 anything with it.
- Q. Okay. Do you know, was there anyone
- 3 else in the room with you and Mr. Robinson when
- 4 he provided you this legal summary?
- 5 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection. That
- 6 assumes facts not in evidence.
- 7 A. I don't even remember how he provided it
- 8 to me. I think it was in paper, but I don't
- 9 remember whether he handed it to me, whether it
- 10 was sent to me. I don't remember.
- 11 Q. Do you know Attorney Florey?
- 12 A. I believe I have met him once.
- 13 Q. Okay. And has the city --
- 14 A. No, I don't feel like I know him.
- 15 Q. Has the city ever engaged Attorney
- 16 Florey for any legal matters?
- 17 A. Not that I'm aware of. Nor would I
- 18 agree with all of the stuff in this.
- -=0=-
- 20 (Deposition Exhibit 32 marked.)
- -=0=-
- MR. SCHUMACHER: He found it.
- THE WITNESS: Good work.

24

- 1 BY MR. INGRAM:
- Q. Mr. Greeson, you've been handed what's
- 3 been marked as Exhibit 32, which is a memorandum
- 4 from you to City Council, dated January 22nd,
- 5 2019, the subject of which is the exploratory
- 6 working paper, cost-to-serve analysis for the
- 7 UMCH property. Do you see that?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And for purposes of the record, Exhibit
- 10 32 is Bates stamped Worthington 126963 through
- 11 126990.
- 12 Is that your signature --
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. -- on the first page of Exhibit 32?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. And is this the cost-to-serve analysis
- 17 that you referenced this morning?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. So originally, five scenarios were
- 20 drafted as part of this analysis, correct?
- 21 A. I don't know if we -- let me read what I
- 22 wrote here.
- Q. Second sentence.
- A. Yeah, I think we didn't do a full

- 1 analysis on five scenarios, just going off
- 2 memory here. There was an analysis done on five
- 3 scenarios, but there were -- kind of like here
- 4 are the scenarios we might analyze, and then got
- 5 some feedback from council and then went about
- 6 doing the analysis. We didn't want to spend
- 7 time -- this was a period where we were
- 8 struggling to fit this into the work schedule,
- 9 and we didn't want to spend time evaluating 20
- 10 scenarios. We wanted to narrow the field to
- 11 make sure we were giving council information
- 12 that was helpful.
- Q. So based on the earlier documents we
- 14 were looking at, the request for the scenarios,
- 15 it was discussed during the City Council retreat
- 16 in early 2018. Councilman Robinson had some
- 17 follow-up emails to you about that. And then in
- 18 January of '19 you provided this memorandum. Is
- 19 that fair?
- 20 A. Yeah, but I would say the cost of
- 21 different types of development had been an issue
- 22 and a question longer than that. People were
- 23 seeking and desiring information that could
- 24 make -- you know, that would help them

- 1 understand the options, both in the community
- 2 and for the council, and they -- and so I don't
- 3 think it was only those limited emails and
- 4 debate. It had kind of had been out there as an
- 5 issue, and we were finally bringing focus to it.
- 6 Q. Okay. And who prepared this analysis
- 7 set forth in Exhibit 32?
- 8 A. Robyn Stewart, who was the assistant
- 9 city manager at the time, prepared it. Other
- 10 staff, obviously, had to give input regarding
- 11 their services and their -- you know, and the
- 12 various costs. But she was the primary author
- 13 or coordinator of the analysis.
- 14 Q. And then ultimately you obviously signed
- 15 it. Did you have some oversight or did you
- 16 participate with the preparation of this
- 17 analysis?
- 18 A. I did not prepare it. She's
- 19 exceptionally good. But I would have read it
- 20 before it was distributed and perhaps I made
- 21 some comments on it to make it for clarity or --
- 22 but I don't recall any of my edits, if I made
- 23 any. I don't recall whether I made any, quite
- 24 frankly. But I'm sure I reviewed it before I

- 1 transmitted it.
- Q. Now, three of the scenarios that were
- 3 analyzed in this memorandum were developed by
- 4 staff, correct?
- 5 A. Go back to the memo I wrote, since I
- 6 don't recall all the details. That's what my
- 7 memo says, so I believe that to be true.
- 8 Q. Okay. Did you participate in creating
- 9 these three hypothetical scenarios?
- 10 A. I don't specifically recall, but I
- 11 imagine I was part of the staff conversation
- 12 that discussed them.
- Q. Did you or any of your staff consult
- 14 with UMCH or Lifestyles in connection with
- 15 creating either of those three scenarios?
- 16 A. I don't specifically recall that we did.
- 17 I don't have a specific memory of that. I know
- 18 that we were being very careful to run the
- 19 analysis, figure out what the scenarios that we
- 20 were going to analyze were, what they wanted to
- 21 know about, and then objectively analyze it
- 22 without, you know, outside influence. So I
- 23 don't know that we would have, but I can't
- 24 specifically remember.

- 1 O. Okav. But the fourth scenario in the
- 2 analysis was based on the white paper issued by
- 3 the WARD organization in January 2018, correct?
- 4 A. That appears to be what I wrote in the
- 5 memo, so yes.
- 6 Q. And with respect to WARD's white paper,
- 7 what inputs from WARD did the analysis rely
- 8 upon?
- 9 A. Other than what they wrote in their
- 10 paper? Are you asking me if they had any -- if
- 11 there was any discussion with them other than
- 12 taking what they wrote in their white paper and
- 13 trying to analyze it?
- 14 Q. Sure. That's my question.
- 15 A. Okay. I don't recall that we had any
- 16 interaction with them where they would have
- 17 influenced them. So no, I don't have any
- 18 specific memory of interacting with WARD or
- 19 Ms. Steward interacting with WARD on the details
- 20 of how we completed this. I believe it was done
- 21 objectively without much outside influence once
- 22 we understood what we were analyzing.
- Q. And what data or what information was
- 24 used as part of this analysis to arrive at the

- 1 projections?
- 2 A. Bear with me. I will read some and
- 3 answer your question --
- 4 Q. Take your time.
- 5 A. -- to the best of my ability.
- 6 Can you repeat the question now?
- 7 (Record read as requested.)
- 8 A. I think, if you look at -- it would be
- 9 the second page of the packet that you handed
- 10 me, the exhibit that you handed me. I think
- 11 Ms. Stewart writes pretty clearly in answer to
- 12 your question, you know, each -- each -- each
- department, each service area attempted to
- 14 determine what it would cost to provide
- 15 services. Not a proportional allocation, but
- 16 each service area determining whether there
- 17 would be additional costs. So looking at
- 18 whether or not it would cost -- require
- 19 additional staff, contract services or supplies
- 20 to serve different types of new development.
- 21 And so it relied somewhat on the expertise of
- 22 the staff and the various departments who in all
- 23 likelihood looked at their costs of their -- of
- 24 providing services to other aspects of

- 1 Worthington.
- Q. Okay. But did staff interview anyone or
- 3 any experts in connection with the assumptions
- 4 they're making? And I'll just give you an
- 5 example. When we're talking about the
- 6 hypothetical residential portions of this
- 7 analysis, what value of the structures -- what
- 8 was the assumed valuation of the homes or the
- 9 apartments, or what was the assumption of how
- 10 much the income would be by the subsequent, you
- 11 know, residents, those kind of assumptions?
- 12 A. Without thoroughly reviewing this report
- and talking to some of the people that were
- 14 involved in it, I, at this point, can't recall
- 15 the specifics and all of the data points that we
- 16 drew upon or Ms. Stewart collected and asked for
- 17 in order to arrive at these scenarios or this
- 18 analysis. My role was to review the overall --
- is to call for it to be done, review the overall
- 20 work product, and then transmit it to council.
- 21 And I think, if you look at the third paragraph
- on the first page, it pretty clearly says it's
- 23 hypothetical. We did the best we could with the
- 24 information we had. You know, it's rough

- 1 estimates and were developed by each department
- 2 based on their sense of how their services would
- 3 be impacted, utilizing assumptions that were
- 4 made and outlined in the document. And, you
- 5 know, I think she does a good job caveating the
- 6 whole report there. That should answer your
- 7 question.
- 8 Q. Okay. And to be specific, with respect
- 9 to the analysis set forth in Exhibit 32, to your
- 10 knowledge, no one reached out to Lifestyle to
- 11 get their input on any of the assumptions or
- 12 inputs here?
- MR. SCHUMACHER: To get Lifestyle's
- 14 input on the cost to the city? Is that your
- 15 question?
- 16 MR. INGRAM: I'm talking about this
- 17 entire analysis, not just the cost to the city.
- 18 MR. SCHUMACHER: Why would they go to
- 19 Lifestyle to find out what it costs to run a
- 20 park or to provide services to a development, a
- 21 hypothetical development?
- 22 A. I think that's a good point. I mean, I
- 23 think, actually, I made that point earlier in
- 24 the day. We would not customarily consult a

- 1 developer on what it costs to provide city
- 2 services to a particular development. We
- 3 might -- there's cases where they require
- 4 developers to commission those studies, you
- 5 know, whether it's school impact studies or
- 6 service impact studies. But we wouldn't
- 7 customarily do that. And I don't recall that we
- 8 had any interaction with Lifestyle during this
- 9 analysis, nor would it be necessary to in order
- 10 to complete the work we were doing.
- 11 Q. Okay. So just so I understand, it
- 12 wouldn't be necessary to contact the property
- 13 owner in connection with what it desired to use
- on its property, or develop on its property in
- order to assess what revenues or costs could be
- 16 derived from it? I just want to be clear.
- 17 MR. SCHUMACHER: We hadn't had a
- 18 proposal since 2015, Chris.
- MR. INGRAM: Counsel, if you're going
- 20 to -- I don't understand. Is this an objection?
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Yes. That's an
- 22 objection.
- MR. INGRAM: Okay. Well, if you can lay
- off the speaking objections, I'd appreciate it.

- 1 MR. SCHUMACHER: At least it's not a
- 2 solil --
- 3 MR. SILK: Soliloquy.
- 4 THE WITNESS: Can you re-read the
- 5 question?
- 6 (Record read as requested.)
- 7 THE WITNESS: Can you re-read the first
- 8 section again?
- 9 (Record read as requested.)
- 10 A. No, I'm not aware that we reached out to
- 11 Lifestyle.
- 12 Q. And was the analysis set forth in
- 13 Exhibit 32 ever revised or updated, to your
- 14 knowledge, Mr. Greeson?
- 15 A. I don't believe so. I'm not aware of
- 16 any revisions or update of it. Maybe there's
- 17 been some since I left, but I'm not aware of
- 18 any.
- 19 Q. Was an analysis similar to this
- 20 conducted when Lifestyle's rezoning application
- and development plan was filed with the city?
- 22 A. I don't think we conducted -- not that
- 23 I'm aware of. Nor would -- nor would we
- 24 necessarily do that.

- 1 MR. INGRAM: All right. We've been
- 2 going for about an hour. Probably a good spot
- 3 to take a break.
- 4 MR. SCHUMACHER: We've come to an
- 5 agreement.
- 6 MR. INGRAM: Is now a good time for a
- 7 break?
- THE WITNESS: That would be great.
- 9 (Recess.)
- 10 -=0=-
- 11 (Deposition Exhibit 33 marked.)
- -=0=-
- 13 BY MR. INGRAM:
- 14 Q. Mr. Greeson, I've handed you --
- 15 MR. SCHUMACHER: I think he's still
- 16 reading.
- 17 THE WITNESS: I'm almost done. Hang on
- 18 one second. Oh, I'm not almost done because I
- 19 think the second page I need to read, too.
- Q. And just for purposes of the record,
- 21 Mr. Greeson, I've handed you what's been marked
- 22 as Exhibit 33, which is an email chain, the
- 23 first email of which is from David Robinson,
- 24 carbon copying you as well, and it includes

- 1 other members of City Council, dated January
- 2 2nd, 2018.
- 3 And I would actually start at page 3,
- 4 the last page of Exhibit 33, if I could direct
- 5 your attention there first.
- 6 A. If I may finish reading, I'd appreciate
- 7 it.
- 8 Q. Sure. You can finish reading the second
- 9 page.
- 10 MR. SCHUMACHER: But not the third?
- 11 A. Okay.
- 12 Q. So have you read the entirety of Exhibit
- 13 33, Mr. Greeson?
- 14 A. I think so.
- 15 Q. Okay. And I had the opportunity during
- 16 one of our breaks to review Mr. Robinson's bio
- 17 on City Council and confirmed that City
- 18 Councilman Robinson was elected in November
- 19 2017, and therefore first became a member of
- 20 City Council in January of 2018. Does that
- 21 sound correct to you?
- 22 A. It does.
- Q. And so when we're looking at page 3 of
- 24 Exhibit 33, Mr. Robinson is emailing

- 1 Councilperson Michael and CC'ing you on December
- 2 31st of 2017. Do you see that?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. And at this point in time, when he sent
- 5 this email, he's not a member of City Council,
- 6 correct?
- 7 A. He's a councilmember elect at that
- 8 point. He hasn't been sworn in.
- 9 Q. Thank you.
- 10 And in December he was emailing -- I'm
- 11 sorry. He emailed but also left a voice mail
- 12 with Council President Michael at the end of
- 13 December in 2017. Do you see that?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 O. And he asked Council President Michael
- 16 to put on the City Council agenda for City
- 17 Council's January 8, 2018, meeting, the topic of
- 18 the UMC portion of the comprehensive plan; is
- 19 that correct?
- 20 A. That's what this -- these documents
- 21 indicate.
- 22 O. But that Council President Michael
- 23 declined to do so; is that fair?
- 24 MR. SCHUMACHER: Are you asking him

- 1 whether that happened, or whether the document
- 2 reflects that?
- 3 Q. Do you have any --
- 4 A. I don't have a recollection of that
- 5 specific debate now all these years later. But
- 6 I believe these documents to be accurate. I'm
- 7 sure if Bonnie said it, that's what happened --
- 8 wrote it, that's probably what happened.
- 9 Q. Mr. Greeson, with respect to the topic
- 10 of the UMC portion of the comprehensive plan,
- 11 that's referencing the 2014 amendment to the
- 12 comprehensive plan, correct, that we looked at
- 13 in Exhibit 1?
- 14 A. I presume that that is what council
- 15 president at the time Michael -- I believe
- 16 that's what they're referencing, yes, to
- 17 Mr. Robinson and Ms. Michael in this email
- 18 exchange.
- 19 Q. And then we see on page 2 Ms. Michael
- 20 indicated to Mr. Robinson that this topic is to
- 21 be included in our council retreat on February 9
- 22 and 10: is that correct?
- 23 A. That's what she says, yes.
- Q. So is the -- was the September 2014 land

- 1 use plan for the UMCH site -- was that put on
- 2 the agenda for the 2018 City Council retreat at
- 3 Mr. Robinson's request or President Michael's
- 4 request?
- 5 A. You went through the retreat documents
- 6 earlier, right?
- 7 Q. The 2018 was set forth in Exhibit 27,
- 8 correct.
- 9 A. I don't think expressly because of these
- 10 emails -- I mean, it appears in Exhibit 27
- 11 what's outlined is a process where the
- 12 facilitators met with councilmembers, myself,
- 13 and other key staff who identified issues that
- 14 might need to be discussed in a planning retreat
- 15 or -- and so I'm sure they would have
- 16 expressed -- I assume that they then expressed
- 17 that to the facilitators and that led to some
- 18 discussion at the retreat, but I don't remember
- 19 specifically how all that transpired.
- Q. Okay. I do recall what Exhibit 27 said.
- 21 The purpose of my question is, is the way
- 22 President Michael's characterized her response
- 23 to at that time Mr. David Robinson in which she
- 24 says, to that end, I told you that this topic is

- 1 to be included in our council retreat February 9
- 2 and 10, and so based on what she says here in
- 3 her email, this is beyond just -- this topic
- 4 goes beyond an interview with the facilitator.
- 5 A. What's your question?
- 6 Q. I'm trying to figure out how --
- 7 MR. SCHUMACHER: It was a statement, not
- 8 a question.
- 9 Q. I'm trying to figure out how Exhibit 1,
- 10 the UMCH portion of the comprehensive plan, was
- 11 set to be discussed during the retreat, whether
- 12 that was at President Michael's direction, was
- 13 it Mr. Robinson's direction. Do you recall? Do
- 14 you know one way or the other?
- 15 A. I don't recall.
- 16 Q. Fair enough.
- -=0=-
- 18 (Deposition Exhibit 34 marked.)
- 19 -=0=-
- 20 BY MR. INGRAM:
- Q. Have you had an opportunity to review
- 22 what's been marked Exhibit 34, Mr. Greeson?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Mr. Greeson, Exhibit 34 is an email from

- 1 Council President Michael to you dated March
- 2 21st, 2020. Do you see that?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. And Council President Michael's email
- 5 has the subject 2014 UMCH comprehensive plan
- 6 update motion to temporarily suspend.
- 7 Do you see that?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. President Michael says, Matt, we need to
- 10 talk on logistics.
- 11 Do you recall this particular issue
- 12 being discussed with Council President Michael?
- 13 A. I remember the issue that is in the
- 14 email chain and Mr. Robinson's email and the
- 15 issue. I don't recall the specific conversation
- 16 with Mrs. Michael.
- 17 Q. Looking at Exhibit 34, there's a
- 18 forwarded message that she sent to you, and I
- 19 believe you were CC'd on that email anyways,
- 20 from David Robinson to members of City Council
- 21 and CC'ing you and others with the city, dated
- 22 September 20, 2020. Do you see that?
- 23 A. I do.
- Q. And looking at top paragraph of page 2

- 1 of Exhibit 34, among other things, Councilman
- 2 Robinson says, accordingly, I will be making a
- 3 motion at tomorrow night's meeting to
- 4 temporarily suspend the UMCH portion of the
- 5 comprehensive plan pending further update.
- 6 Please know that I am going to make this motion
- 7 in this rather sudden manner because of the
- 8 urgency that we act while we can.
- 9 Do you see that?
- 10 A. I do.
- 11 Q. Did Councilman Robinson talk to you
- 12 about this sudden motion to temporarily suspend
- 13 the UMCH portion of the comprehensive plan
- 14 before he sent this email?
- 15 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection. Form.
- 16 A. I don't have a specific memory of him --
- 17 of having a conversation with him. I don't
- 18 recall.
- 19 Q. You don't recall one way or the other
- 20 or --
- 21 A. I don't recall a conversation. I really
- 22 don't recall one way or the other.
- Q. And Mr. Robinson's email says, please do
- 24 not reply all. Do you know why that would be?

- 1 A. Yes, under -- we had well coached
- 2 councilmembers, if you get in a circular
- 3 exchange of emails, you can inadvertently create
- 4 a public meeting under Ohio law, and we were
- 5 diligent that if somebody proffered their
- 6 opinion via email that they didn't end up
- 7 getting into a debate that should happen in the
- 8 public via email. And so we always advised our
- 9 councilmembers to say don't reply all, because
- 10 they could end up having a public meeting and
- 11 they didn't even intend to.
- 12 Q. Okay. Now, with respect to this
- 13 proposed -- to Councilman Robinson's proposed
- 14 motion, would that proposed motion have been set
- 15 forth on that meeting's agenda?
- MR. SCHUMACHER: This hypothetical
- 17 motion?
- 18 A. When did he write it? What day of the
- 19 week?
- Q. It was the night before the City Council
- 21 meeting.
- 22 A. The agenda would have been released the
- 23 prior Thursday.
- Q. And in order to make it on the agenda,

- 1 is it generally understood that matters must be
- 2 presented to the clerk the Thursday before
- 3 the -- that meeting?
- 4 A. To be on the written agenda that the
- 5 staff distributes and posts on the website.
- 6 Q. Is there some other agenda?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. Okay.
- 9 A. But that doesn't mean that matters that
- 10 are not listed on the agenda can't come up in
- 11 the meeting. There's opportunity for that, both
- 12 at the end of the meeting and beginning of the
- 13 meeting, whatever council wants. But on the
- 14 written agenda would come out usually the
- 15 Thursday unless we supplement it.
- 16 Q. And with respect to the logistics, now
- 17 that you've looked at Councilman Robinson's
- 18 email, do you recall what happened with this
- 19 particular effort?
- 20 A. My recollection is that it didn't move
- 21 forward, that there was an interest in amending
- 22 the comp plan at that point. I don't actually
- 23 recall right now if he made the motion and
- 24 whether there's a vote on it actually. I don't

- 1 have a recollection of that.
- Q. We can refer to the meeting minutes.
- 3 A. Yes. I did not -- I don't think I read
- 4 those meeting minutes.
- 5 -=0=-
- 6 (Deposition Exhibit 35 marked.)
- 7 -=0=-
- 8 MR. INGRAM: Sorry, I handed you the
- 9 wrong version.
- 10 MR. SCHUMACHER: I think the highlighted
- 11 one is just fine.
- 12 THE WITNESS: I didn't read it anyway.
- 13 MR. INGRAM: That's fine. I was looking
- 14 for my copy.
- 15 BY MR. INGRAM:
- 16 Q. Mr. Greeson, I've handed you what's been
- 17 marked as Exhibit 35, which is an email from you
- 18 to members of council and other Worthington city
- 19 officials, dated September 24, 2020, with a
- 20 subject line, UMCH discussion. Do you see that?
- 21 A. I do.
- Q. And you were forwarding an email the
- 23 same date that you had received from Lee Brown
- 24 that contains a summary of the discussion that

- 1 you and Mr. Brown had along with the City's law
- 2 director with Tom Hart, who was the attorney for
- 3 Lifestyles. Do you see that?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. I want to direct your attention to the
- 6 second paragraph of the second page of Exhibit
- 7 35, in which Mr. Brown notes that we also
- 8 discussed what occurred this past Monday at City
- 9 Council concerning the UMCH site. Do you see
- 10 that?
- 11 A. I saw it earlier. What paragraph?
- 12 Q. Sure. It's the second page, second
- 13 paragraph.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: You should give him the
- 15 highlighted version.
- 16 Q. Here's the highlighted version.
- 17 A. There you go. Yes.
- 18 Q. So my question is: What happened at
- 19 that Monday meeting? This is days after the
- 20 email that we just reviewed in paragraph 34.
- 21 A. What happened at what Monday meeting,
- 22 City Council meeting?
- Q. Correct. So in other words, during this
- 24 meeting that you had with Mr. Hart, one of the

- 1 issues summarized in --
- 2 A. So one thing I know is we get detailed
- 3 minutes and we record the video of all of those
- 4 meetings, and I think you can go back and watch
- 5 it. I can't at this point recall all the
- 6 details of that meeting.
- 7 MR. SCHUMACHER: I'm going to object as
- 8 asked and answered. I think you asked him that
- 9 question earlier, and he said he didn't remember
- 10 the details. But you can probably piece it
- 11 together by looking at the video.
- 12 A. I think that's right. I mean, I -- I
- 13 think Mr. Robinson expressed his interests that
- 14 he articulated in the email and council had a
- 15 discussion about that. I don't recall what
- 16 action was taken or whether he actually made a
- 17 motion, but we obviously were transparent with
- 18 Lifestyle about it.
- 19 Q. Okay. One of my questions is that --
- 20 what prompted your and Mr. Brown and
- 21 Mr. Lindsey's meeting with Mr. Hart?
- 22 A. I don't specifically recall. I don't
- 23 recall.
- Q. The subject is UMCH discussion, and you

- 1 directed Mr. Brown to prepare a summary of that
- 2 discussion.
- 3 A. Yeah. And that had been our custom, if
- 4 there was a sensitive issue or an important
- 5 property or topic, would keep the council
- 6 apprised of what was going on. And so this
- 7 would be customary for such an important site.
- 8 Q. So did you direct Mr. Brown to prepare
- 9 summaries of all your discussions or meetings
- 10 with Lifestyles concerning the UMCH site?
- 11 A. I don't recall if all, but if there was
- 12 substantive things to inform the council about,
- 13 we would share with them what was going on with
- 14 major developments. So it was not unusual for
- 15 us to give them some information about sites
- 16 they maybe asked questions about.
- 17 Q. Okay.
- 18 A. Or had expressed concern about.
- 19 Q. So to the extent there were substantive
- 20 discussions regarding the UMCH site involving
- 21 Mr. Brown or you with Lifestyle, should I expect
- 22 to be able to read a summary -- a written
- 23 summary of that meeting since it was customary?
- A. I don't know about every meeting, but at

- 1 times that were important, like they had gone
- 2 essentially dark for many years without much
- 3 interaction with them about any significant
- 4 development proposal. We hadn't really had
- 5 anything substantive from them since 2015. You
- 6 know, we had OhioHealth and we had Yaromir, but
- 7 really nothing from LC that would have suggested
- 8 that they were going to move forward with a
- 9 development that was anywhere like -- you know,
- 10 like they had in 2015. And so now they were
- 11 coming forward to talk about it again and that's
- 12 notable.
- Q. From the context of Mr. Brown's summary
- 14 of the meeting you attended, it doesn't appear
- 15 that Mr. Hart was aware of what was discussed in
- 16 the prior Monday City Council meeting, because
- 17 he says he was going to have to -- or he was
- 18 going to view it online. So who asked for this
- 19 meeting?
- 20 A. I don't remember.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Keep in mind we're
- 22 during COVID here. These were all virtual.
- 23 A. I mean, there's a couple things going on
- 24 in the life of the city at the time. One is I'm

- 1 managing an organization that's responding to
- 2 COVID, and we were spending a lot of time on
- 3 police matters because, after George Floyd was
- 4 killed, we had 14 protests in Worthington of
- 5 various sizes, and I had a lot of focus on that
- 6 at the time. That's what's going on in the city
- 7 manager's life when all this is happening, too.
- 8 Q. Okay. My question was just simply who
- 9 asked for the meeting?
- 10 A. I don't know.
- 11 Q. Okay.
- 12 A. I don't recall.
- -=0=-
- 14 (Deposition Exhibit 36 marked.)
- 15 -=0=-
- 16 BY MR. INGRAM:
- 17 Q. Have you had an opportunity to review
- 18 what's been marked as Exhibit 36?
- 19 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Mr. Greeson, I've handed you what's been
- 21 marked as Exhibit 36. which is an email from you
- 22 to Councilmember Robinson and other members of
- 23 council and City of Worthington officials, dated
- 24 September 29, 2020. Do you see that?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And your email is a response to
- 3 Councilmember Robinson with a subject of UMCH
- 4 discussion with LC. Do you see that?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. So if we look at Mr. Robinson's email to
- 7 you on the same date, he's emailing you about
- 8 Mr. Brown's summary that we just reviewed in
- 9 Exhibit 35, correct?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And he asked in his email, simple
- 12 question: Why did you bring to Mr. Hart's
- 13 attention the UMCH-related discussion we just
- 14 had at council?
- 15 MR. SCHUMACHER: You misread that. It
- 16 says, we had just had at council. Sorry.
- 17 MR. INGRAM: I'll rephrase and re-read.
- 18 MR. SCHUMACHER: Guardian of the record.
- 19 BY MR. INGRAM:
- Q. So let's try this again, Mr. Greeson.
- 21 On page 2 of Exhibit 36, Councilmember Robinson
- 22 asked you, quote, simple question: Why did you
- 23 bring to Mr. Hart's attention the UMCH-related
- 24 discussion we had just had at council? End

- 1 quote. Do you see that?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. And then you respond to Councilmember
- 4 Robinson's question; is that fair? Is that what
- 5 your email is doing?
- 6 A. Pretty clearly.
- 7 Q. All right. And did you have any
- 8 discussions with Councilmember Robinson about
- 9 the question he posed to you?
- 10 A. I don't remember having any
- 11 conversations with him. I can't recall.
- 12 This email answers the question to some
- 13 degree in your last -- regarding your Exhibit
- 14 35, which I couldn't recall, which is you asked
- 15 who asked for the meeting. It appears Mr. Hart
- 16 might have, based on this exhibit. I don't
- 17 recall that; but...
- 18 Q. Okay. You don't recall it one way or
- 19 the other. Well, here's the thing that puzzles
- 20 me a little bit, Mr. Greeson. Because when I
- look at your email, the second paragraph on the
- first page of Exhibit 36, in the second sentence
- of that paragraph you wrote, Councilmember Smith
- 24 asks staff to make the potential applicant aware

- 1 of the conversation.
- 2 Do you see that?
- 3 MR. SCHUMACHER: It's the third
- 4 sentence.
- 5 MR. INGRAM: I stand corrected.
- 6 A. I see that. I don't know what it means,
- 7 but I see that.
- 8 O. And so based on the context of these
- 9 emails, it at least appears to me that the UMCH
- 10 property -- or the UMCH portion of the
- 11 comprehensive plan was discussed during a City
- 12 Council hearing, and Councilmen Smith asked
- 13 staff to make the potential applicant aware of
- 14 that conversation. Is that fair?
- MR. SCHUMACHER: That's a question?
- 16 MR. INGRAM: Yes.
- 17 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection. Form.
- 18 A. Yes. I think I outline that fairly
- 19 clearly in this email, and while my memory -- I
- 20 don't recall all the specifics, this jogs my
- 21 memory to some degree. But I don't have
- 22 anything to add other than what's written in
- 23 this response to Mr. Robinson.
- Q. Okay. But as far as the meeting that

- 1 you held with Mr. Hart on September 24, that
- 2 meeting came at Councilmen's Smith request
- 3 during the hearing; is that fair?
- 4 A. No, I don't believe it did.
- 5 Q. Okay. Why's that?
- 6 A. Bear with me. You know, later in the
- 7 email I say, as it relates to things being
- 8 publicly discussed by council and directly
- 9 affecting a party who has asked to meet with us,
- 10 and I believe that refers to Mr. Hart asking to
- 11 meet with us. He asked to meet with us, and
- 12 I -- and then I believe we informed them of what
- 13 had transpired in the council meeting. That's
- 14 how I read this. I don't have a specific
- 15 recollection of all those details.
- 16 Q. Okay. So you can't recall one way or
- 17 the other as to who asked for the meeting?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. But you did know that Lifestyles was a
- 20 potential applicant at that time, correct?
- 21 A. I didn't know what their interests were.
- 22 Of course, I thought they were a potential
- 23 applicant at some point, although we had not
- 24 heard from them in any substantive way since

- 1 2015.
- Q. Well, I'm just using the words here in
- 3 your own email, Mr. Greeson, where both
- 4 Mr. Smith apparently referred to Lifestyles as
- 5 the potential applicant and where you do
- 6 yourself in the last sentence of your email.
- 7 MR. SCHUMACHER: He just told you that
- 8 he considered them a potential applicant.
- 9 A. Yeah. I think that's right. Any
- 10 property owner is a potential applicant. I
- 11 mean --
- 12 Q. Okay.
- 13 A. I don't remember what I knew about their
- 14 current interests at the time. So I don't -- I
- 15 don't put a lot of weight in that language
- 16 because I don't know that it really means a lot
- 17 to me. I wasn't trying to convey anything other
- 18 than that's what was said in the meeting.
- -=0=-
- 20 (Deposition Exhibit 37 marked.)
- -=0=-
- 22 BY MR. INGRAM:
- Q. Mr. Greeson, I've handed you what was
- 24 marked as Exhibit 37, which is an email from you

- 1 to Councilmember Robinson, dated October 13,
- 2 2020. The subject of your email is the nature
- 3 of the UMCH comp plan update. Do you see that?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And for purposes of the record, Exhibit
- 6 37 is Bates stamped Worthington 58372 through
- 7 58376, with page 76 being entirely blank.
- 8 MR. SCHUMACHER: You're welcome. So
- 9 it's not a million pages, it's 999,000.
- 10 O. And the attachment to -- the attachment
- 11 to your email to Councilmen Robinson includes a
- 12 memorandum written by you that we previously
- 13 looked at earlier?
- 14 MR. SCHUMACHER: He was still reading
- 15 the document. I think you were distracting him.
- 16 Sorry.
- 17 MR. INGRAM: He already indicated he
- 18 read the exhibit, I thought.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Sorry.
- 20 A. I was in a contemplative mind-set here.
- 21 Go ahead.
- 22 BY MR. INGRAM:
- Q. And the attachment to your email in
- 24 Exhibit 37 is a memorandum that you issued, you

- 1 signed, and we've already discussed earlier
- 2 today. Do you recall that?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 MR. SCHUMACHER: Another copy of the
- 5 same document.
- 6 Q. You were asked by Councilmen Robinson on
- 7 October 24, 2019, to put in writing how one may
- 8 describe the nature of the UMCH comp plan update
- 9 process and final product.
- 10 Do you see that?
- 11 A. I do see it.
- 12 Q. And in your response, among other
- 13 things, you wrote, at this point, I'm not
- 14 comfortable with being asked to characterize the
- 15 comprehensive plan as a whole or any section as
- 16 anything other than the adopted policy document
- 17 of the City Council.
- 18 Do you see that?
- 19 A. I do see that.
- 20 Q. Okay. So why did you not respond
- 21 directly to Councilmen Robinson's question?
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection.
- 23 A. Let me re-read his email, please.
- Q. Go ahead.

- 1 A. I'm not sure. In re-reading his
- 2 question, he's using words like -- you know,
- 3 he's challenging -- his words, not mine --
- 4 challenging the notion that the update is a
- 5 consensus document, and so he's asking me to
- 6 characterize it with nontechnical terms. My
- 7 role as a city manager is to, you know, work
- 8 with the policy documents of the City Council,
- 9 laws adopted by the city. A comp plan's not
- 10 law, but the set of guidelines the council had
- 11 adopted. This particular councilmember felt
- 12 very strongly that the strategic direction
- outlined in the comprehensive plan -- he wasn't
- 14 the only one -- was directionally wrong, and
- 15 looks like I artfully avoided assigning
- 16 language, labels, characterizing the
- 17 comprehensive plan and just -- in some way that
- 18 might, you know, cause more division amongst my
- 19 councilmembers or between council and staff. I
- 20 think that's what I was doing.
- Q. Fair enough.
- 22 A. Trying to be a diplomat, I guess.
- Q. And in the course of your prior answer,
- 24 you referenced the strategic analysis and the

- 1 comprehensive plan, and you were pointing to
- 2 Exhibit 1; is that correct?
- 3 A. Yes, I believe so.
- 4 Q. Well, Exhibit 1 is right here, and this
- 5 is the document you were pointing to, correct?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Thank you.
- 8 You had already testified earlier this
- 9 morning that Councilmen Robinson disagreed with
- 10 Exhibit 1 as reflecting the consensus, if I
- 11 recall correctly.
- 12 A. Sure.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Hold on. Can you read
- 14 that question back, please.
- 15 (Record read as requested.)
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.
- 17 A. Yeah, I think that's fair. Yes. And he
- 18 wasn't the only one in the community that felt
- 19 that way.
- Q. And you said in your prior response he
- 21 wasn't the only one. Were there any other
- 22 councilmembers that aligned with Mr. Robinson's
- 23 view?
- A. I think earlier in the -- well, I think

- 1 it's a matter of record, right? At least at
- 2 this juncture, Mr. Smith -- and I don't recall,
- 3 you know, when Mr. Bucher more clearly
- 4 articulated his thoughts on it. So I don't
- 5 recall when that happened. So yeah, we did not
- 6 have unanimity amongst councilmembers about --
- 7 about the strategic direction outlined in the
- 8 comprehensive plan.
- 9 And I think, if you watch the video,
- 10 there were some people who, you know, felt -- my
- 11 guess is -- my memory of it is that you'll hear
- 12 people wrestling with a lot of things. One is,
- 13 was this directionally correct? Another is
- 14 whether it's just time, so much time had passed
- 15 without a development application and without
- 16 anything going on there that there were some
- 17 that thought -- well, while they may have had
- 18 more favorable feelings towards the 2014 comp
- 19 plan, there may have been -- there were
- 20 councilmembers that were okay with, you know,
- 21 the possibility of updating the comp plan
- 22 because the bones of it hadn't been updated
- 23 since '05, and a lot had changed since 2014 in
- 24 terms of the public's, you know, sentiment, and

- 1 there had been hundreds and hundreds of people
- 2 who would give an opinion and lots of
- 3 controversy. So there were a variety of
- 4 opinions, and it was difficult to figure out
- 5 what the consensus or majority was.
- 6 Q. Well, one thing you said, though, was
- 7 this email is from October 13, 2020, or your
- 8 response was. And Councilman Robinson had sent
- 9 you a prior email a few days before on October
- 10 10th. Do you see that?
- 11 A. Yes, I do.
- 12 Q. And Lifestyle had actually filed its
- 13 rezoning application with its proposed
- 14 development plan on October 5th of 2020. So
- 15 there was a development plan pending before
- 16 council at the time.
- 17 A. Okay. Thank you for clarifying the
- 18 timeline.
- 19 Q. And so after Lifestyles had submitted
- 20 its rezoning application and development plan,
- 21 did Councilmember Robinson or Councilman Smith
- 22 or Councilman Bucher seek to amend the
- 23 comprehensive plan or circulate a proposal to
- 24 amend the comprehensive plan?

- 1 A. After they filed?
- 2 Q. Correct.
- 3 A. I don't recall that they did, no. And
- 4 it would be part of the record you have if they
- 5 did.
- 6 Q. And what I'm looking -- my question goes
- 7 more towards internal drafts or proposals that
- 8 were not made a public record.
- 9 A. Again, you would have them, if they
- 10 existed, and I'm not aware of any. The question
- 11 was comp plan amendments or -- no, I don't -- I
- 12 don't believe so. I don't have any recollection
- 13 of that.
- 14 Q. With respect to the emails you received
- 15 from Councilmen Robinson set forth in Exhibit
- 16 37, did you provide those emails to anyone?
- 17 A. I don't know. This response?
- 18 Q. Or his emails to you about a comp plan
- 19 update concerning the UMCH property.
- 20 A. In Exhibit 37, did I forward these, is
- 21 that what you're asking?
- Q. Or share them with anyone else.
- 23 A. I don't remember.
- Q. 2020, was Ms. Michael still the council

- 1 president?
- 2 A. Yes, I believe so.
- 3 Q. Did you discuss Mr. Robinson's
- 4 persistent inquiries about amending the comp
- 5 plan with Council President Michael?
- 6 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection to the
- 7 characterization.
- 8 You can answer.
- 9 A. I don't know. I don't recall. But in
- 10 re-reading this email, I don't think it really
- 11 says a lot about amending it. It's just how I
- 12 would characterize the original plan update in
- 13 2014. So I don't know that I would have, but I
- 14 don't have any recollection one way or the
- 15 other.
- 16 Q. I guess, when I said amendment, I guess
- 17 I was referring to the temporary suspension that
- 18 Mr. Robinson had been raising and referring to
- 19 just prior to this point.
- 20 A. Yeah, no, I think he's, you know,
- 21 talking about how -- I think he's talking about
- 22 how I characterize the 2014 UMCH comp plan
- 23 update in these emails. He's not talking about
- 24 the desire to amend it.

- 1 Q. I see.
- 2 A. That's how I read this, and I believe
- 3 that's how I responded, it appears.
- 4 Q. Okay.
- 5 -=0=-
- 6 (Deposition Exhibit 38 marked.)
- 7 -=0=-
- 8 MR. SCHUMACHER: Get some substance now.
- 9 BY MR. INGRAM:
- 10 Q. While you're reviewing the document, for
- 11 purposes of the record, Mr. Greeson, I'm handing
- 12 you -- or I've handed you what's been marked as
- 13 Exhibit 38. It's a staff memorandum to you from
- 14 Lee Brown, dated November 8, 2021, and is Bates
- 15 numbered Worthington 3135 through page 3171. Do
- 16 you see that?
- 17 A. Yes. Okay.
- 18 Q. Do you recognize Exhibit 38,
- 19 Mr. Greeson?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. Have you reviewed it before?
- 22 A. I have.
- Q. Were you involved in preparing any
- 24 portion of Exhibit 38?

- 1 A. I was not, although I likely read it
- 2 before it went out the door.
- 3 Q. Did you make any revisions to --
- 4 A. I don't believe I made any revisions to
- 5 it. Again, my role, I'm not the city planner.
- 6 My role is to, you know, be aware of what we
- 7 were doing to oversee it, but I was relying on
- 8 Mr. Brown's technical expertise, which is good.
- 9 And I don't think I substantively impacted it.
- 10 Q. Did you discuss any portions of the
- 11 substance of this memorandum with Mr. Brown
- 12 before it was completed?
- 13 A. I likely discussed his conclusions with
- 14 him, but I don't have a specific memory of that
- 15 conversation.
- 16 Q. Okay. And why do you say you likely
- 17 discussed his conclusions with him?
- 18 A. Because I oversee -- ultimately oversee
- 19 the process and the work, and I think that's --
- 20 as city manager and one of our directors on a
- 21 big project and big sensitive issue like this, I
- 22 wasn't going to -- you know, he was likely going
- 23 to share his thoughts with me before he sent it
- 24 to the planning commission. But like I said, I

- 1 can't tell you a specific time or date or the
- 2 content of that. I'm just being forthright that
- 3 we likely talked about his analysis of it, and
- 4 then I likely reviewed it before it went out the
- 5 door. I just don't have a very specific memory
- 6 of all that.
- 7 Q. So other than Mr. Brown, are you aware
- 8 of any other city officials who participated in
- 9 the preparation of this memorandum in Exhibit
- 10 38?
- 11 A. I think, at that juncture, Mr. Brown
- 12 reported to Ms. Stewart, who was one of his --
- 13 as assistant city manager. We had done some
- 14 reorganization at some point where different
- 15 departments got realigned for reporting
- 16 relationships, and she had service parks and rec
- 17 and planning and development who reported to
- 18 her, and I believe she probably reviewed this
- 19 document to assist Mr. Brown in making sure that
- 20 we took a huge volume of information and wrote
- 21 it in a coherent fashion that was objective and
- 22 clear to the reader. She's an excellent writer.
- Q. So would any of the recommendations set
- 24 forth in Exhibit 38 have been Ms. Stewart's

- 1 recommendations, or are they all Mr. Greeson's?
- 2 MR. SCHUMACHER: Did you say Greeson?
- 3 MR. INGRAM: I'm sorry. Mr. Brown.
- 4 MR. SCHUMACHER: If you want to stop
- 5 now, if it's too late for you, we can stop.
- 6 A. Well -- so this is the staff memorandum
- 7 to the City Council, and went to the planning
- 8 commission first, as you well know, with a
- 9 planning staff -- planning and development
- 10 department's -- planning and building, I should
- 11 say, department's staff recommendation to the
- 12 planning commission, and then this memo
- 13 transmits both the planning commission's and the
- 14 staff's original recommendation. And the
- 15 process for doing that is Mr. Brown writes me a
- 16 memo, as you see here, and then I send it to the
- 17 council through the agenda. I think your
- 18 question was whose recommendation was it.
- 19 Q. Let me clarify my question. Sorry. I'm
- 20 asking with respect to staff as opposed to
- 21 planning commission.
- A. Well, Mr. Brown developed the original
- 23 recommendation for the planning commission, and
- 24 certainly I oversaw that, and so when we say the

- 1 staff recommendation, I think it's all of ours.
- Q. But you didn't assist or provide the
- 3 recommendations, you just reviewed it at the
- 4 end, correct?
- 5 A. Yes. I may have talked to him about
- 6 some of his thinking and aspects of it along the
- 7 way, but again, I don't remember the details of
- 8 that. I mean, he would have shared those with
- 9 me. But no, I didn't write this.
- 10 Q. And did you have any conversations with
- 11 Ms. Stewart pertaining to any of the
- 12 recommendations that were set forth in this
- 13 memorandum?
- 14 A. I don't have a specific recollection of
- 15 conversations I had with her, but our offices
- 16 were right next to each other, so I imagine I
- 17 did.
- 18 Q. But none that you recall?
- 19 A. None that jump out at me.
- Q. Okay. Did you disagree with any of the
- 21 staff recommendations in this memorandum?
- 22 A. No, I did not. I thought -- well, I'll
- 23 just say no, I did not at this point.
- Q. Okay. And what did you think? If you'd

- 1 round out your thought there.
- 2 A. You know, the first thing is I think you
- 3 gave me the staff report for the second version
- 4 of the application. The first version left a
- 5 lot to be desired. It wasn't very clear on many
- 6 aspects of the overall development. And while
- 7 they cleaned it up, you know, I think Mr. Brown
- 8 points out a number of areas where it's
- 9 deficient.
- 10 I'll go back to some comments I made
- 11 earlier. I never -- I didn't think it struck
- 12 the balance that the comprehensive plan update
- contemplated between housing and housing types
- 14 and office and economic-generating activity and
- 15 meaningful park space. And the 2015 plan had
- 16 less density on --
- 17 MR. SCHUMACHER: You said plan, or
- 18 application?
- 19 A. Well, they had a 2015 concept plan that,
- 20 you know, had many objections from the
- 21 community, and I'm sure were listening to the
- 22 volume of -- when we had a whole website section
- on UMCH issues where we kept people updated and
- 24 people's opinions were available and there was

- 1 masses of comments and community dialogue and,
- 2 you know, narrative during the many ensuing
- 3 years between 2015 and when they ultimately
- 4 filed. And, you know, the public's concerns
- 5 about the balance of uses on the site weren't --
- 6 seemingly weren't considered because they got
- 7 more dense, probably less economically impactful
- 8 on less land following the subdivision off of
- 9 the West Ohio Conference. And didn't reflect, I
- 10 think, their best effort.
- 11 Q. Anything else?
- 12 A. Well, that's a broadbrush. I think
- 13 Mr. Brown does a very thorough job laying out
- 14 the staff's concerns on each aspect of the
- 15 comprehensive plan, and I've given you a broad,
- 16 general framework for what I thought, but I
- 17 thought he did a very good job looking at all
- 18 aspects of the comprehensive plan, fairly
- 19 pointing out where it's improved, and outlining
- 20 deficiencies that rise to the level of not
- 21 approving it.
- Q. Okay. With your broadbrush answer, is
- 23 there anything else beyond the -- I wrote down
- 24 seven different things you've listed.

- 1 A. Well, no, I'm not going to offer any
- 2 more at this point. I think Mr. Brown's memo
- 3 does a good job of articulating the staff's
- 4 viewpoints on the application.
- 5 Q. Okay. I just want to make clear, I'm
- 6 asking is there anything else, and you're saying
- 7 you're not going to offer anything up beyond the
- 8 text of the memo itself. Is there anything that
- 9 you're leaving out, or are you just going to
- 10 stand on Mr. Brown's memo?
- 11 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection.
- 12 Argumentative.
- 13 A. I am not leaving anything out that comes
- 14 to my mind.
- 15 Q. Thank you.
- 16 A. I reserve the right to share that with
- 17 my counsel if he so desires at some point.
- 18 However -- not my counsel, the City's counsel.
- 19 However, I will comment that I think Mr. Brown's
- 20 memo's thorough.
- Q. And I'm just asking your understanding,
- your thoughts with respect to the conclusions
- 23 set forth in Mr. Brown's memo. Okay? And I
- 24 just want to know what those are.

- 1 A. I think I gave them to you.
- Q. All right. And so you said with respect
- 3 to Exhibit 1 --
- 4 MR. SCHUMACHER: Did you have more to
- 5 say? I'm sorry.
- 6 THE WITNESS: No. I think he did a good
- 7 job. I think he thoroughly outlined the -- I
- 8 think he did what the staff's job is, is to
- 9 review the plan and outline the issues
- 10 associated with it, and, you know, share our
- 11 thoughts on its deficiencies. And, you know, he
- 12 did that. I support what was written.
- 13 BY MR. INGRAM:
- 14 Q. Okay. Now, with respect to your
- 15 testimony regarding your opinion that the
- 16 application didn't strike a balance between the
- 17 land use plan set forth in Exhibit 1 with
- 18 respect to different housing types, what are you
- 19 referring to?
- 20 A. Well, bear with me.
- Yeah, I think Mr. Brown's memo does a
- 22 better job of articulating than I can on --
- Q. You're looking at a page. Can you --
- 24 A. Yeah. 003161. There's a conversation

- 1 about residential density height and housing
- 2 types and, you know, the plan, and that whole
- 3 housing section, you know, talks about some of
- 4 the issues associated with then housing.
- 5 Essentially that the density was too much and
- 6 also that the variety didn't respond to some of
- 7 the needs that became expressed by the community
- 8 over time.
- 9 Q. Okay. But you were referring to housing
- 10 types and density in connection with the land
- 11 use plan. Specifically where in the land use
- 12 plan does this application not strike the
- 13 appropriate balance? Because when I look at the
- 14 section you just directed me to, that's
- 15 comparing with the 2015 plan -- or 2015 concept
- 16 version, but doesn't refer to Exhibit 1.
- 17 A. How about we schedule a time when I
- 18 re-reviewed this and reviewed this and we can
- 19 have a debate about it. But I haven't -- I
- 20 would need to read the 2014 comprehensive plan.
- 21 You asked me for my off-the-cuff opinion, and I
- 22 gave it to you.
- Q. Well, Mr. Greeson --
- A. Bottom line is I think Mr. Brown's memo

- 1 is what I reviewed at the time, and I thought it
- 2 reflected that that was the staff's opinion at
- 3 the time, and that was my opinion at the time,
- 4 because I agreed with it. And the density in
- 5 particular is significantly different than it
- 6 was in 2015. I mean, wasn't sufficient office,
- 7 wasn't sufficient green space, and the density
- 8 exceeded what I think the community would have
- 9 supported and was appropriate under the plan.
- 10 Q. Okay. Couple things, Mr. Greeson.
- 11 Number one, I'm not here to argue or debate with
- 12 you. I'm here to understand --
- 13 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection. I think you
- 14 are.
- 15 Q. I'm here to understand your personal
- 16 knowledge --
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. -- and your understanding of why you're
- 19 agreeing with Mr. Brown's conclusions in this
- 20 memorandum. And you provided me with -- I wrote
- 21 down seven different things.
- 22 A. Right.
- Q. And the first four that I wrote down
- 24 related to -- all related to the land use plan

- 1 set forth in Exhibit 1.
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. And so now I want to ask follow-up
- 4 questions of why you -- what the basis was for
- 5 each one of --
- 6 A. Of those seven things?
- 7 Q. Correct.
- 8 MR. SCHUMACHER: Let me interpose.
- 9 A. This.
- 10 MR. SCHUMACHER: "This," he's referring
- 11 to Exhibit 38.
- 12 Let me interpose an objection as to the
- 13 argumentative nature of your question, and also
- 14 to the relevance of a witness who's not on City
- 15 Council who doesn't have decision-making
- 16 authority.
- 17 He's pointed you to the staff report,
- 18 Exhibit 38. He's told you to talk to Mr. Brown
- 19 about that in detail. He's giving you his
- 20 off-the-cuff. If you do want to argue with him
- about that, there's a time and place for that,
- 22 and it's not in a deposition.
- 23 BY MR. INGRAM:
- Q. Okay. Mr. Greeson --

- 1 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. -- so with respect to the balance of
- 3 the types of housing and the density with the
- 4 land use plan, which balance or where in the
- 5 land use plan in Exhibit 1 were you referring
- 6 to --
- 7 MR. SCHUMACHER: Same --
- 8 Q. -- that the application failed to
- 9 achieve?
- 10 MR. SCHUMACHER: Same objection that I
- 11 just made.
- 12 A. So I would refer you to the staff memo,
- 13 and I would need to read that to cite the
- 14 specific sections, and then re-read this, but I
- 15 think the staff memo calls out fairly clearly
- 16 some of the deficiencies in the plan, in their
- 17 submittal. I'm not sure that I have any other
- 18 comments because I'm not prepared to go
- 19 scripture and verse between sections of the UMCH
- 20 focus area plan from 2014 and their submittal.
- Q. And so what -- when you reference the
- 22 housing types or the density in connection with
- 23 the land use plan, what was -- what's that based
- 24 upon?

- 1 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection.
- 2 A. I'm sorry, repeat your question.
- 3 Q. I'm just trying to understand or
- 4 ascertain the basis for your reference to the,
- 5 in your mind, insufficiency of housing types or
- 6 the density as it -- in Lifestyle's application
- 7 as it related to the land use plan in Exhibit 1.
- 8 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection.
- 9 Argumentative.
- 10 A. All right. Bear with me. I'm going to
- 11 read.
- 12 Q. Take all the time you need.
- 13 MR. SCHUMACHER: Until 5:00.
- 14 Is there a question pending?
- 15 MR. INGRAM: Yes.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: What was the question?
- 17 I'm sorry. I forgot.
- 18 (Record read as requested.)
- 19 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection. You can
- 20 answer.
- 21 A. First, I'm not sure my opinion matters,
- 22 first of all. I'm no longer the city manager.
- 23 Second, the planning commission has the charter
- 24 duty to make the recommendation, and it's

- 1 ultimately a policy decision of the City
- 2 Council. The manager's role and Mr. Brown's
- 3 role would be to facilitate process, provide
- 4 technical information, which he does in his
- 5 memo, and give any insights that we might choose
- 6 to offer. However, we don't make policy. It's
- 7 ultimately the City Council's decision and the
- 8 planning commission's important charter role to
- 9 offer them their opinion.
- However, to answer your question, I'll
- 11 go density and housing type. The density on the
- 12 site as was proposed was, I think, 600 units,
- 13 which was higher than the 2015 proposal with
- 14 less acreage. And that's not answering the
- 15 question you asked, but I'm offering it. And so
- 16 in that regard, I don't think that they listened
- 17 to the overwhelming outpouring of concern about
- 18 the density that was suggested in 2015 when they
- 19 drafted a proposal many years later with less
- 20 land.
- 21 O. Mr. Greeson --
- 22 A. The second --
- MR. SCHUMACHER: I don't think he's
- 24 done.

- 1 A. The second thing, which I think more
- 2 directly responds to your question, was the mix.
- 3 They proposed a mix of for-sale and for-rent
- 4 products throughout the site. I think
- 5 predominantly for rent. And the floor plan
- 6 options had few options for single-level living,
- 7 which is, as Mr. Brown outlines in his memo, one
- 8 of the things that we heard repetitively from
- 9 the community. The strategic analysis or the
- 10 adopted UMCH focus area amendment of the
- 11 comprehensive plan in 2014 has objectives that
- 12 are pretty clearly outlined, and that includes
- 13 addressing the needs of current and future
- 14 residents by providing new housing types,
- 15 options that are underrepresented in the market
- 16 and complements Worthington's current offerings.
- 17 And if you do any listening to the community,
- 18 you'll hear that people want to be able to stay
- 19 in this community and have opportunities for
- 20 single-level living. That's been expressed in
- 21 lots of different ways by the community over
- 22 time, and I think it was -- you know, that
- 23 different housing type that doesn't exist in our
- 24 market isn't offered.

- 1 I think, additionally -- bear with me.
- 2 I lost my place. In the neighborhood core
- 3 section of the land use plan, there's also
- 4 discussion about introducing residential living
- 5 that is underrepresented in the market and
- 6 complements Worthington's current offering,
- 7 addressing the needs of aging Worthington
- 8 residents -- I emphasize there -- future young
- 9 professionals, and those desiring amenity-rich
- 10 living. Perhaps you might need to hear that
- 11 again. Addressing the needs of aging
- 12 Worthington residents.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Do you want him to go
- 14 on? Chris, do you want him to continue?
- 15 BY MR. INGRAM:
- 16 Q. Are you finished answering?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And with respect to the for sale, for
- 19 rent residential house styles in Lifestyle's
- 20 application, how does that fall short or not fit
- 21 within the land use plan? Can you point me to
- 22 that?
- 23 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection.
- 24 Argumentative. Do we have that plan here? I

- 1 don't think I have the plan.
- MR. INGRAM: It's Exhibit 1.
- 3 MR. SCHUMACHER: I thought you were
- 4 referring to Lifestyle's plan and why it didn't
- 5 comport with Exhibit 1. What I'm saying is, I
- 6 don't think we have Lifestyle's plan in front of
- 7 us. And if you're asking the witness to compare
- 8 your client's deficient plan with the Exhibit 1
- 9 and with the staff memo Exhibit 38, then I think
- 10 we need to look at that. If we're going to
- 11 debate this case here and on deposition, that's
- 12 what we're going to have to do.
- 13 A. I don't think I outlined rental or for
- 14 rental as one of my opinions earlier. I just
- 15 cited that it was the fact that they had a mix
- 16 in their proposal. I don't have any comment on
- 17 that.
- 18 Q. Okay. It had written down for sale, for
- 19 rent as part of your response.
- 20 A. I was just reciting that out of
- 21 Mr. Brown's memo that their proposal included a
- 22 mix of those, and I commented that it was
- 23 predominantly for rent, but it was a mix of for
- 24 rent. I was just stating what I think are the

- 1 facts about their proposal based on what was in
- 2 Mr. Brown's memo. I wasn't commenting on this,
- 3 on the type of housing, or the -- whether it
- 4 was -- you could buy it or rent it.
- 5 Q. What new housing types in your mind were
- 6 missing?
- 7 MR. SCHUMACHER: Same objection as
- 8 before.
- 9 Go ahead.
- 10 A. Single-level living is among the others
- 11 and among -- is one of them. And then I would
- 12 have to review the proposal in more detail and
- 13 look at Mr. Brown's memo in more detail to
- 14 further answer the question.
- 15 Q. And then you repeated a reference to the
- 16 needs of aging residents with respect to the
- 17 neighborhood core.
- 18 A. Yes, sir.
- 19 Q. And what were you referring to there?
- 20 A. Single-level living, that we've heard in
- 21 the Worthington community for many years.
- Q. To your knowledge, did you or a member
- 23 of the city staff communicate any concern that
- there was not enough single-story residential

- 1 products or housing, I should say, in their
- 2 application?
- 3 MR. SCHUMACHER: Go ahead.
- 4 THE WITNESS: I thought you were raising
- 5 your hand.
- 6 MR. SCHUMACHER: You did ask -- your
- 7 question related to staff, right?
- 8 MR. INGRAM: To Mr. Greeson or his
- 9 staff.
- 10 MR. SCHUMACHER: Right.
- 11 A. Yeah, I don't -- I didn't have a
- 12 specific -- when?
- 13 BY MR. INGRAM:
- 14 Q. With respect to the --
- 15 A. This application?
- 16 Q. -- the Lifestyle application. Yes.
- 17 A. I didn't have a specific conversation.
- 18 It's clear in the comprehensive plan, it's
- 19 clearly in the body of information that the
- 20 public, you know, advanced over time, and you
- 21 would have to ask other staff who interacted
- 22 with them more frequently what was commented on.
- Q. Well, you interacted with Mr. Hart and
- 24 Mr. Brownlee, correct?

- 1 A. At the beginning of the process,
- 2 briefly.
- 3 Q. Okay. And you didn't communicate this
- 4 issue to either of them, correct?
- 5 A. I don't --
- 6 MR. SCHUMACHER: When? After this
- 7 application was filed?
- 8 MR. INGRAM: Yes.
- 9 MR. SCHUMACHER: Go ahead.
- 10 A. So let me go back to my role. I was not
- 11 managing the interaction with UMCH. You asked
- 12 my thoughts on their application. I gave them.
- 13 The official thoughts of staff on the
- 14 application are written in Mr. Brown's memo.
- 15 You asked my personal thoughts, and I gave them
- 16 to you. And the official recommendation is
- 17 right here. It's Exhibit 38. I did not have
- 18 much interaction with Mr. Hart or Mr. Brownlee
- 19 during the process. That was largely Mr. Brown,
- 20 to some degree Mr. Lindsey, and then before the
- 21 planning commission. But I think the
- 22 comprehensive plan is clear and their
- 23 application wasn't totally responsive to it.
- Q. Okay. And with respect to the

- 1 comprehensive plan in Exhibit 1, in addition to
- 2 housing types, you referenced, in your personal
- 3 opinion, insufficient office space, lack of
- 4 meaningful park space, and less
- 5 economic-generating activity. Fair?
- 6 A. Yeah. I mean, go -- that sounds -- I'm
- 7 sure that's what I said.
- 8 Q. Well, I just want -- I want to make sure
- 9 that I understand what your concerns were and --
- 10 because my question is: Did you convey any of
- 11 those concerns with anyone from Lifestyle while
- 12 the application was pending?
- 13 MR. SCHUMACHER: Other than what was
- 14 expressed by staff and the planning commission?
- 15 You're asking him personally?
- MR. INGRAM: Read back my question,
- 17 please.
- THE WITNESS: I'm going to get some
- 19 water.
- 20 MR. SCHUMACHER: Can we go off the
- 21 record.
- 22 (A discussion is held off the record.)
- 23 (Record read as requested.)
- A. The application in -- whenever it was,

- 1 2021, I did not have much interaction with
- 2 Lifestyle or Mr. Hart. I can't recall that I
- 3 specifically communicated that. We were
- 4 encouraging and open, iterative process before
- 5 the planning commission. So I was being -- I
- 6 also didn't want to unfairly interject myself in
- 7 a process that I thought should be -- you know,
- 8 would build trust in the community if it was,
- 9 you know, happening before the planning
- 10 commission. So no.
- 11 Q. Okay.
- 12 A. I was not a part of all of the
- 13 conversations that occurred with them.
- 14 Q. In preparation for your deposition
- 15 today, you had reviewed the meeting minutes from
- 16 the planning commission hearing on this
- 17 application. Do you recall that?
- 18 A. I do.
- 19 Q. And do you recall that the commission
- 20 prevented Lifestyle from amending its
- 21 application?
- 22 A. In the sense -- no, they didn't. They
- 23 did amend their application, but only once. I
- 24 mean, they had an application. It was poorly

- 1 constructed. They had many months to bring back
- 2 to the planning commission ideas, iterative
- 3 changes, or concepts for the planning commission
- 4 to react to. I think Mr. Brown regularly
- 5 communicated with them to see if they had any
- 6 updates, because we were committed to making
- 7 sure that we were timely, that we got it before
- 8 the planning commission, and that we were
- 9 administering the process. They took -- again,
- 10 they went relatively dark for a long period of
- 11 time, and then came back with a proposal that
- 12 was their one amendment.
- 13 Q. Did --
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Are you done?
- THE WITNESS: Yeah.
- 16 Q. Mr. Greeson, did you attend that
- 17 planning commission hearing?
- 18 MR. SCHUMACHER: Which one?
- 19 Q. The October 14, 2021, hearing.
- 20 A. You know, I read the minutes. I don't
- 21 remember. I think I listened in. I would have
- 22 to go back and look.
- Q. You don't recall one way or the other?
- A. No. And I didn't pay attention in the

- 1 minutes of whether I was there or not.
- 2 MR. SCHUMACHER: It was virtual. Just
- 3 point of clarification.
- 4 Q. Do you recall whether you attended
- 5 virtually?
- 6 A. I don't recall.
- 7 Q. And you just mentioned that you
- 8 thought --
- 9 A. Busy time.
- 10 Q. -- Mr. Brown was regularly
- 11 communicating with Lifestyle. Do you know that,
- 12 or are you speculating?
- 13 A. No, I know that he was reaching out at
- 14 least monthly to see if they had any updates.
- 15 Q. And how do you know that?
- 16 A. Because Mr. Brown reported to us.
- 17 Q. And how did Mr. Brown report to you?
- 18 A. I don't recall specifically. It was
- 19 probably verbally.
- Q. Would there be emails or notes from
- 21 those conversations?
- A. With me, between Mr. Brown and me?
- 23 Q. Yes.
- A. Probably not. I do not have any, I

- 1 should say.
- Q. Okay. Was there a file concerning this
- 3 application where there would be documentation
- 4 between the interactions of Mr. Brown and
- 5 Lifestyle's representatives?
- 6 A. I don't know.
- 7 Q. Can you recall any specific times when
- 8 Mr. Brown updated you with his conversations
- 9 with Lifestyle's representatives?
- 10 A. Not specifically.
- 11 Q. I've handed you, Mr. Greeson, what was
- 12 previously marked as Exhibit 6?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 O. Which is Ordinance No. 4-2022.
- 15 A. Okay.
- 16 Q. You've reviewed Exhibit 6?
- 17 A. (Nods head.)
- 18 Q. Do you recall this moratorium ordinance?
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. Who was involved in drafting the
- 21 moratorium ordinance concerning the UMCH
- 22 property?
- 23 A. The law director was the -- wrote it. I
- 24 looked at it. I believe Mr. Brown looked at it.

- 1 I may have -- I may be wrong about that. My
- 2 memory may be faded on that. But both
- 3 Mr. Lindsey and I were involved in it.
- 4 Q. Okay. And who originally proposed this
- 5 ordinance to you?
- 6 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection. Relevance.
- 7 You can answer.
- 8 A. Who requested it? Is that what you're
- 9 asking?
- 10 Q. Yeah, that's a more artful way of
- 11 stating it.
- 12 A. Council President Robinson.
- Q. And when did Council President Robinson
- 14 request that this ordinance be prepared?
- 15 A. I don't recall the specific time or
- 16 date. It was early in his tenure as council
- 17 president.
- 18 Q. So this ordinance was proposed and voted
- 19 upon at City Council's January 18, 2022,
- 20 meeting.
- 21 A. Right. It was not -- I'm sorry. Repeat
- 22 the date. January --
- 23 Q. January 18, 2022.
- 24 A. Right. So it would have been between --

- 1 you know, in the week or so prior to that.
- Q. Okay. And this ordinance or proposed
- 3 ordinance was not on City Council's agenda. Do
- 4 you recall that?
- 5 A. Yes, I do.
- 6 Q. And do you know why this proposed
- 7 ordinance was not included on the agenda?
- 8 A. Well, it wasn't done, for one, and I am
- 9 not sure it was finally -- when the agenda went
- 10 out the door, I'm not sure it was finally
- 11 concluded it was going on. And I don't think
- 12 its content was completed until close to the
- 13 meeting. I don't remember how close to the
- 14 meeting, but fairly close to the meeting.
- Q. So at this time, Councilmember Robinson
- 16 had become the City Council president?
- 17 A. Correct.
- 18 Q. In January of 2022. So he's a brand-new
- 19 president?
- 20 A. Correct.
- 21 O. And we'll call it the second week of
- 22 January or third week of January he approaches
- 23 you and Mr. Lindsey and requests that this
- 24 moratorium be prepared; is that fair?

- 1 A. Sometime in that time frame.
- 2 Q. Okay. And did you communicate
- 3 Mr. Robinson's request that a moratorium be
- 4 prepared with respect to the UMCH property to
- 5 any other councilmembers?
- 6 A. At some point in the process between his
- 7 request, our decision to prepare it and the
- 8 council voting on it, I spoke with each of the
- 9 councilmembers to inform them that we had
- 10 received this request and that it was coming and
- 11 that we were working on it.
- 12 Q. How far in advance did you speak with
- 13 each member of council to the January 18th
- 14 meeting?
- 15 A. Not -- I mean, again, we did not have it
- 16 complete, so I don't recall specifically. It
- 17 was late in the week and over the weekend
- 18 probably. I don't have a -- I don't have a
- 19 specific timeline that I recall.
- Q. Okay. And that meeting was on a
- 21 Tuesday, Tuesday evening.
- 22 A. All right.
- Q. And so to the best of your recollection,
- 24 you spoke with each member of council over the

- 1 preceding weekend or late the week before; is
- 2 that fair?
- 3 A. Yeah, and it could have been as late as
- 4 Monday. I don't remember.
- 5 O. So each member of council knew that
- 6 this -- that a moratorium would be proposed on
- 7 the UMCH site?
- 8 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection. He didn't
- 9 say that.
- 10 A. That it was being prepared and that
- 11 there was a likelihood that it was going to be
- 12 proposed.
- 13 Q. Okay.
- 14 A. Staff was not proposing it.
- 15 Q. Of course.
- 16 Did you talk to any city staff about
- 17 this proposed moratorium prior to the hearing?
- 18 A. I likely did. I don't recall having --
- 19 who I talked to other than Mr. Lindsey. I may
- 20 have talked some to Mr. Brown, although he was
- 21 not heavily involved in the dialogue about this.
- 22 Ms. Stewart may have been aware of it, but I
- 23 don't recall involving her. I don't have a lot
- of memory around other than Mr. Lindsey and I.

- 1 Q. Did you notify anyone from Lifestyle
- 2 about this proposal in advance of the hearing?
- 3 A. I did not, although they were at the
- 4 hearing. Representatives of Lifestyle,
- 5 Mr. Miller, I believe, was at the meeting.
- 6 Q. So you're referring to the February 7th
- 7 meeting, the following meeting.
- 8 A. Okay. That might be the case. It's
- 9 been a long time.
- 10 Q. I understand.
- 11 MR. SCHUMACHER: It was a public
- 12 meeting, so anybody can come, even those who
- 13 live on Gay Street.
- 14 A. No, I did not at the time contact
- 15 anybody in Lifestyle.
- Q. Just to be clear, the Ordinance 4-2022
- 17 was heard and voted upon during the January 18,
- 18 2022, hearing, and then there was --
- MR. SCHUMACHER: What was the result?
- 20 Q. -- there was a February 7, 2022,
- 21 hearing, a discussion item, UMCH focus area
- 22 moratorium. I have the agenda here if you'd --
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Is that marked already?
- MR. INGRAM: Yeah.

- 1 MR. SCHUMACHER: Which one was it?
- 2 MR. INGRAM: Exhibit 13.
- 3 MR. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.
- 4 BY MR. INGRAM:
- 5 Q. -- to refresh your recollection,
- 6 Mr. Greeson.
- 7 A. Thank you.
- 8 MR. SCHUMACHER: That was marked during
- 9 the prior deposition, not today.
- 10 A. Further discussion.
- 11 Q. Does that refresh your recollection as
- 12 to the sequence of events?
- 13 A. Somewhat. There's been a lot that's
- 14 happened since then.
- 15 Q. Okay.
- 16 MR. SCHUMACHER: Well, what's the
- 17 question, whether Mr. Miller was at the February
- 18 7th meeting, or the January 18th meeting?
- 19 MR. INGRAM: That's not the question at
- 20 all. He indicated he was confused, and so I was
- 21 just reminding him of the sequence of events
- 22 with the two hearings.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: I thought he said that
- 24 Mr. Miller was at the January 18th meeting, and

- 1 your questions were designed to -- what, to
- 2 clear up that confusion?
- 3 MR. INGRAM: Yes.
- 4 MR. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.
- 5 MR. INGRAM: Just to clear up the
- 6 record.
- 7 MR. SILK: So it was the question.
- 8 MR. SCHUMACHER: All right.
- 9 BY MR. INGRAM:
- 10 Q. And so my prior question, Mr. Greeson,
- 11 was whether you had shared the moratorium
- 12 pertaining to the UMCH property, the proposal,
- 13 with anyone from Lifestyle prior to the January
- 14 12th hearing. You said you did not. Are you
- 15 aware of anyone else from the city sharing this
- 16 proposed ordinance with anyone from Lifestyle
- 17 prior to that hearing?
- 18 A. I'm not.
- 19 Q. Were you asked by anyone not to share
- 20 this proposed moratorium with anyone from
- 21 Lifestyle?
- 22 A. I don't recall specifically whether I
- 23 received a direct ask to do that.
- Q. What do you recall?

- 1 A. That we discussed -- there was some
- 2 discussion about, you know -- I don't have a
- 3 vivid memory of it, but there was some
- 4 discussion about, you know, when this should be
- 5 shared, but I don't have a specific memory of
- 6 it.
- 7 Q. Okay. And was that --
- 8 A. It would have been dialogue between
- 9 Mr. Robinson, Mr. Lindsey and I.
- 10 Q. So there was a discussion involving you
- 11 and Mr. Lindsey and President Robinson
- 12 concerning when this proposed moratorium should
- 13 be shared; is that fair?
- 14 MR. SCHUMACHER: Objection to the extent
- 15 that this invades the City's attorney-client
- 16 privilege.
- 17 A. I don't know about when. Maybe whether.
- 18 But I don't have a specific memory of it. I
- 19 didn't share it, so clearly I concluded that we
- 20 shouldn't, or that I shouldn't.
- 21 Q. Okay.
- 22 A. So -- I don't have anything else to add.
- Q. Was the fact that a moratorium on the
- 24 development of the -- of LC's property is going

- 1 to be discussed during the January 18 hearing --
- 2 City Council hearing -- a citizen testified at
- 3 that hearing because he had heard about it in
- 4 the community.
- 5 A. Okay.
- 6 Q. Did you share this proposal or in any
- 7 way tell anyone else about this proposed
- 8 moratorium in advance of that meeting?
- 9 A. Beyond council and staff, no.
- 10 Q. Are you aware of any staff members
- 11 sharing the proposed moratorium with anyone in
- 12 the public?
- 13 A. I'm not aware, and don't recall at this
- 14 point.
- 15 Q. I'm handing you what was previously
- 16 marked as Exhibit 7, which was Resolution
- 17 No. 4-2022. Have you had a chance to review
- 18 Exhibit 7?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Very similar questions on this
- 21 resolution as I had on the prior ordinance.
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. You can see here from the face of
- 24 Exhibit 7, Resolution No. 4-2022 was adopted by

- 1 City Council on January 18, 2022. Do you see
- 2 that?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. And do you recall that this resolution
- 5 was not on City Council's agenda for that
- 6 hearing? Do you recall that?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 O. Who drafted Resolution No. 4-2022?
- 9 A. I don't recall. I can only assume that
- 10 our law director did, but I don't specifically
- 11 recall who drafted the resolution.
- 12 Q. So you don't know one way or the other?
- 13 A. I don't -- no, I don't remember.
- 14 Q. Okay.
- 15 A. These kind of cover resolutions are
- 16 usually drafted by staff, but they're -- I don't
- 17 recall specifically.
- 18 Q. Were you involved in drafting this
- 19 resolution in Exhibit 7?
- 20 A. I don't believe so.
- Q. And then with respect to the amendment
- 22 to the comprehensive plan update that's attached
- 23 to the resolution, that would be pages 2 and 3
- 24 of Exhibit 7, were you involved at all in

- 1 drafting that comprehensive plan update?
- 2 A. Let me go back and say I don't recall on
- 3 the resolution.
- 4 Q. Okay.
- 5 A. Let's me clarify my answer. I don't
- 6 recall whether I reviewed it, because I don't
- 7 recall. I was not involved in drafting the --
- 8 what did you describe this as?
- 9 Q. The --
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Page 2 and 3.
- 11 Q. The comprehensive plan update, or the
- 12 amendment to it.
- 13 A. No, I was not involved in drafting it.
- 14 Q. It would be helpful if it had a title.
- 15 A. Yeah.
- 16 Q. Okay. Do you know who did?
- 17 A. I believe it was -- I believe it was
- 18 drafted by Mr. Robinson.
- 19 Q. And why do you believe that?
- 20 A. He is the one that transmitted it to the
- 21 City Council. I'm not aware of anybody else
- 22 being involved.
- Q. Did Mr. Robinson --
- A. I should say I don't remember anybody

- 1 else being involved.
- Q. With respect to this amendment to the
- 3 comprehensive plan, did you provide Mr. Robinson
- 4 with any specific information that was
- 5 incorporated or adopted into this amendment?
- 6 A. No, I did not. I wrote that memo in the
- 7 early part of -- whatever year it was, that
- 8 certainly said that amending the comprehensive
- 9 plan was one strategic approach to reshape
- 10 policy direction related to UMCH. I also wrote
- 11 in that memo that the moratorium was a legal
- 12 policy option available to the city. But I
- 13 didn't influence or shape this. It's possible
- 14 that he sent this -- he did send this at some
- 15 point early in the day of the hearing out to
- 16 council, and he may have sent it earlier than he
- 17 sent it to council to staff. I didn't make any
- 18 comment on it. I don't know whether Mr. Lindsey
- 19 or Mr. Brown did. I don't recall. That
- 20 clarifies my earlier answer about whether
- 21 anybody else was -- touched this.
- Q. Okay. So it's not like any city
- 23 consultants or anyone from the city assisted
- 24 Mr. Robinson, to your knowledge, to prepare or

- 1 create this amendment to the City's
- 2 comprehensive plan?
- 3 A. I think, if staff made any comment on
- 4 it, it was reacting to the draft the day of the
- 5 meeting.
- 6 Q. And did any --
- 7 A. But I don't remember specific changes to
- 8 it that we influenced or having an opportunity
- 9 to substantively review it and impact it.
- 10 Q. Did any of the city staff consult with
- 11 you regarding any proposed revisions or changes
- 12 to --
- 13 A. Not that I can remember. They can tell
- 14 you if they did or not. I don't remember.
- Q. And similar to my questions with respect
- 16 to Exhibit 6, with Exhibit 7, did you share this
- 17 amendment to the comprehensive plan that
- 18 pertained to Lifestyle's property with
- 19 Lifestyles before the January 18 hearing?
- 20 A. No. I mean, I didn't get it until
- 21 January 18th, so I -- no, I did not.
- Q. Did you know, prior to January 18th,
- 23 that Council President Robinson had any
- intention of amending the comprehensive plan as

- 1 it pertained to the UMCH property?
- 2 A. I think you can look at the record from
- 3 years prior and know that this was a --
- 4 something that he desired to do at some
- 5 juncture.
- 6 Q. Sorry. That was an inartful question.
- 7 I intended to ask this specific revision that's
- 8 contained in Exhibit 7, did you have any
- 9 indication --
- 10 A. Right.
- 11 Q. -- that Mr. Robinson was going to move
- 12 forward with this prior to the January 18
- 13 hearing?
- 14 A. I cannot -- I honestly can't recall our
- 15 specific conversations kind of on the heels of a
- 16 moratorium and whether -- what he told me about
- 17 this. I don't recall.
- 18 Q. And similar question, are you aware of
- 19 any indications or conversations President
- 20 Robinson would have had with any other city
- 21 staff concerning this comprehensive plan
- 22 amendment set forth in Exhibit 7?
- 23 A. Not that I can recall or remember.
- Q. Were you directed or instructed by

- 1 Council President Robinson not to share the
- 2 contents of Exhibit 7 with anyone outside of the
- 3 city?
- 4 A. I don't think so. No, I don't recall
- 5 that. I don't remember him -- there was not a
- 6 lot of time between when I got it and when, you
- 7 know, council got it and all of that. No, I
- 8 don't remember that.
- 9 Q. Have you come to understand whether
- 10 Council President Robinson shared the contents
- of Exhibit 7 with any other councilmembers prior
- 12 to January 18?
- 13 A. I don't know the answer to that.
- Q. Do you know whether President Robinson
- 15 shared the contents of Exhibit 7 with anyone
- 16 outside of the city prior to the hearing?
- 17 A. I don't know the answer to that.
- 18 Q. In your time as city manager, has there
- 19 ever been a moratorium directed to a specific
- 20 property in the city?
- 21 A. I can't remember one. We've had other
- 22 moratoriums. Not that I can remember.
- Q. Any moratorium directed to one property,
- 24 is my question?

- 1 MR. SCHUMACHER: You mean one that
- 2 passed?
- A. Well, right, this one -- yeah, probably
- 4 important to say for the record that this one
- 5 did not pass, which requires a super majority.
- 6 No. I mean, there was a property on
- 7 Olentangy River Road that certainly was the
- 8 impetus for a moratorium in the Olentangy River
- 9 Road overlay, which resulted in the Olentangy
- 10 River Road overlay, and really there was only
- 11 one developable -- well, one vacant property out
- 12 there that stimulated that moratorium and the
- 13 work to create that overlay. But I don't have a
- 14 memory of any other like that.
- 15 O. When did that occur?
- 16 A. I think that was like -- that was --
- 17 might have even been before I got here because
- 18 it was being worked on when I got here. So '07
- 19 sometime, 2007.
- Q. So you were not involved in the
- 21 Olentangy overlay?
- 22 A. I was involved in it on the end of it.
- Q. But with respect to whether or not there
- 24 was a moratorium --

- 1 A. I don't remember being involved in it,
- 2 no.
- 3 Q. Do you know whether, in fact, the
- 4 moratorium was passed in connection with the
- 5 Olentangy overlay?
- 6 A. There was a moratorium for a period of
- 7 time.
- 8 Q. And I know you said the overlay -- there
- 9 was one developable piece, but there was more
- 10 than one property involved, correct?
- 11 A. In that instance, yes. I believe so. I
- 12 don't actually recall the details of it. It's
- 13 just a -- there was one property that was
- 14 driving it.
- 15 Q. But you don't recall the details?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. Okay.
- 18 A. That one was 2007; so...
- 19 Q. In your time as the city manager at the
- 20 City of Worthington following the January 18,
- 21 2022, meeting, has the city considered the
- 22 future development of the UMCH property?
- 23 A. In what way?
- Q. So, for example, with the amendment to

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- 1 the comprehensive plan there in Exhibit 7, has
- 2 the city considered reviewing or updating
- 3 Exhibit 7?
- 4 A. So you would be talking --
- 5 MR. SCHUMACHER: Go ahead.
- 6 THE WITNESS: You raised your hand.
- 7 MR. SCHUMACHER: No, my hand's getting
- 8 sore from my pen.
- 9 A. So I left in December, early December of
- 10 2022. So you're talking about in the roughly 11
- 11 months I worked for the city before I left?
- 12 O. Yes.
- 13 A. Repeat your question. Or could you
- 14 repeat the question?
- 15 Q. I can rephrase the question now that we
- 16 have a time frame.
- 17 A. Yeah.
- 18 Q. And really, I want to know whether the
- 19 city considered the future development of the
- 20 UMCH property, were there discussions about that
- 21 during that time frame?
- MR. SCHUMACHER: From January 18th,
- 23 2022, until -- when was it -- December --
- 24 MR. INGRAM: Until he left.

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- 1 MR. SCHUMACHER: Remember, the lawsuit
- 2 was filed in, I believe, March of '22.
- 3 A. Yeah, I don't think -- not that I can
- 4 recall.
- 5 Q. Okay.
- 6 MR. SCHUMACHER: Chris, I'm interposing
- 7 an objection to the extent that it would include
- 8 any Rule 408 discussions we've had since the
- 9 lawsuit was filed.
- 10 MR. INGRAM: Again, I'm not asking about
- 11 that.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay.
- MR. INGRAM: You have a puzzled look on
- 14 your face, Mr. Greeson.
- MR. SCHUMACHER: Is there a question
- 16 pending?
- 17 MR. INGRAM: He hasn't finished his
- 18 answer.
- 19 MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay.
- 20 A. So earlier in my engagement I told -- in
- 21 this whole dialogue I said there was some
- 22 outreach by Mr. Robinson to Mr. Brownlee
- 23 regarding the property in early 2022. That may
- 24 have happened -- I think that happened after the

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- 1 adoption of this amendment, but I don't think it
- 2 resulted in any substantive conversation.
- 3 Q. And I believe you testified you were not
- 4 party to that discussion and weren't really
- 5 aware of what they discussed, correct?
- 6 A. I don't recall being a party to it. I
- 7 don't recall, you know -- I just recall nothing
- 8 happened. And then the lawsuit was subsequently
- 9 followed. So my puzzled look was because I was
- 10 trying to remember the sequence of events in
- 11 Mr. Robinson's outreach to Mr. Brownlee.
- MR. INGRAM: Okay, Mr. Greeson, thank
- 13 you very much for your time today. The city
- 14 still has not yet exhausted its production of
- 15 documents to us. And so to the extent there is
- 16 any additional information produced, we may have
- 17 more questions for you. So I'm going to leave
- 18 your deposition open. But I have no further
- 19 questions for you today.
- THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- -=0=-
- Thereupon, the testimony of October 6,
- 23 2023, was concluded at 5:07 p.m.
- -=0=-

Page 255 1 CERTIFICATE 2 STATE OF OHIO SS: 3 COUNTY OF FRANKLIN: 4 I, Rhonda Lawrence, a stenographic court reporter and notary public in and for the 5 State of Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that the within-named MATTHEW GREESON was first duly sworn to testify to the 6 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth in the cause aforesaid; that the testimony 7 then given was taken down by me stenographically in the presence of said witness, afterwards 8 transcribed; that the foregoing is a true and 9 correct transcript of the testimony; that this deposition was taken at the time and place in 10 the foregoing caption specified. 11 I certify that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto and that I am not financially 12 interested in the action. I further certify 13 review of the transcript was not requested. 14 In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand at Columbus, Ohio, on this 20th day 15 of October, 2023. 16 17 18 19 20 Rhonda Lawrence 21 Rhonda Lawrence 22 Notary Public, State of Ohio My commission expires: October 9, 2028 23 24

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